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MADEIRA CHURCH OF CHRIST

A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

PROOF

A Personal Remembrance of the Church People, I Grew up Knowing
By Raymond 'Mike' Boettcher

MADEIRA CHURCH OF CHRIST, A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS
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ISBN: 979-8-218-80238-7

Printed in the USA by 48 Hour Books (www.48HrBooks.com)

BOOK ____of____

DEDICATION

On March 2, 1959, the song "Dedicated to the One I Love" by the Shirelles was released. It only made it to number 83 on the Billboard Hot 100. Two years later, it was re-released and made it to number 3. But this was before the time of my listening to rock and roll music. The one I remember was sung by the Mamas & the Papas on the Ed Sullivan Show of June 11, 1967. It was the summer before I entered my senior year at Madeira High School.

The lyrics were interesting. One line was "**Life can never be exactly like we want it to be"** and this certainly defined my life's journey. Then, there's a line asking for a prayer to be made on behalf of the person whose far away from them.

At the time, to me, it was a song about a soldier who went off to Vietnam and left his girl behind. He is asking for her to pray for him and his situation. And if she would 'dedicate it to the one she loved' it would be a confirmation, she still loved him.

Now you are wondering how does 'Mike' thinks this fits in with his book about Madeira Church of Christ! I believe all these folks, I will mention as the "Community of Believers," were sending up prayers for all who passed through their doors at 7421 E. Galbraith. And I was one of them. Also, prayers were for those they met anywhere out in the world. They loved talking about their Savior and dedicating their time to the people they loved, which was everyone!

Naming each of these people on this 'Dedication' page would be as impossible as it would be counting the blessings I have been given! I surely would miss someone important. Therefore, I am "**Tell**(ing) **all the stars above, This is dedicated to the one**(s) **I Love**," who nurtured my early childhood. It brought me back from 'far away' to Christ in later years!

Most importantly, this is dedicated to the Glory of God whose perfect plan brought Madeira Church of Christ into existence!

Lastly, I want to thank my special 'god-daughter,' Nicole Mullinax who helped review the book's message! Like me, she truly enjoys reading about people, real people!

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PROOF

PREFACE

Have you ever thought back to your younger years and what events and people influenced your journey of life? Basically, what in your childhood was the foundation for a lifetime of choices to land you 'where you are today?'

In this memoir, I want to convey the impact the Madeira Church of Christ members had on my journey through life and where I landed!

I had written three books, one each year, as a way of giving Christmas gifts to the family. First two books were about my father: 'What My Dad did in the CCC" and "I Need to Write Norma!" The Norma book is how my parents met while dad was serving in the Navy during WW II. A third book was a collection of essays I wrote about hospital stays, cars I owned, and jobs I had done. My grandkids prompted the writing of this book.

Then my sisters. Sylvia and Jenny, sent me some family slides. For you younger folks, a photographic slide is a type positive image on a transparent support, the reverse of a negative. The slide would have a cardboard frame around it. You would view it by shining a light through it. We would have a projector device where you could place the slide in and see it on a wall or screen. Often, you would have a round carousel, filled with slides, placed in the projector and be able to show slide after slide. Many of these slides were of the church construction and church events. Hence, the beginning of another family Christmas book.

But as I researched the church's information and track down the people I remembered, the project grew to be more than just an informational source. I renewed old friendships, found new friends, and learned so much more about the people I remembered! I am hopeful I have conveyed the character of these wonderful people who formed the community of Madeira Church of Christ believers!

INTRODUCTION

It is people who give meaning to life. Without people, there would be no sadness, there would be no joy, there would be no triumph, there would be no failures. Without people, whom would God shower His blessings upon? Whom would Jesus come to save and provide a way home to the Father? Who would be HIS church?

Yes, Madeira Church of Christ was a building. It had bricks, plaster, an asphalt roof, and those hard wooden pews. But, without the people, God's people, there would be no one to build it and fill those hard wooden pews each week!

When I was little, one of the many activities in Sunday School was the teaching about the church. It went like this:

Fold your fingers together in a fist | Use Thumbs to make doors | Use Index Fingers to make a Steeple | Then open the 'Doors' to show ALL the **PEOPLE!**

This shows the church was really the people inside, not the building! This book is a personal remembrance, intended to show the people who nurtured Madeira Church of Christ with God's guidance. They supported it from its establishment in 1957 and worked to move it forward. "A memory is a photograph taken by the heart to make a special moment last forever. (Unknown) " This book is about those special moments with the people of the church where I grew up!

Another memory of mine was the catchy songs they taught us, like:

"The B-I-B-L-E, Yes that's the book for me!

"Jesus Loves Me This I Know, for the Bible tells me so!"

"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine"

"In my heart there rings a melody, with Heaven's Harmony"

How many do you remember from those children's Sunday School classes?

In the Beginning was the Word

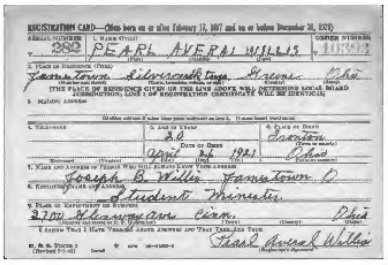
In the beginning, God, in His wisdom, brought forth Pearl Averal Willis on April 26, 1920 by the love of his parents; Joseph and Bertha Willis. Pearl was the fifth of seven children, living on West Xenia Street in Jamestown, Ohio. About two blocks away, at the corner of West Xenia and North Maple Avenue, was the Church of Christ attended by the Willis family. Joseph taught grade school in the Jamestown public school system and in a small town like Jamestown, he knew everybody and everybody knew him and his family.

Another name we will hear later in this book is Anna Louise Ritenour who was in the same grades as Pearl, and attended the Grape Grove Church of Christ, just up the road from Jamestown. She and a younger sister will play important roles in the success of Madeira Church of Christ. But, let us get back to Pearl in Jamestown, Ohio!

About five miles south of town off Burr Road, was a dirt road shared by the Cline and Miley farms. Leeman and Ada Cline had a daughter named Lucille born July 26, 1920, the third of six children. Lucille knew Pearl through both school and church during their early years. While Lucille helped on the farm after graduating high school, Pearl took on a job in a retail store as a salesman to earn money for college. Pearl was blessed with a talent to form a 'personal' relationship with everyone he met. Some said he could sell a refrigerator to an Eskimo! And God had plans for that talent!

Pearl did well in his summer retail job. But Pearl had a goal. He wanted to go to college. His goal was not to attend just any college, but to enter the Cincinnati Bible Seminary and become a minister.

Pearl Willis entered the bible seminary in the fall of 1940. On September 16, 1940, President Roosevelt signed the draft act requiring men 21 years old and older to register. Pearl registered for the draft *before* his 21st birthday, in early 1941. By now, Pearl was already on his path to being a minister. His draft card shows his residence at Cincinnati Bible Seminary (CBS) and his occupation as student minister. Glenway Avenue is where the men's dormitories were located for the seminary. Pearl was in the Men's chorus during his freshman year (1940-41) as well.


REGISTRATION CARD—Men born on or after February 17, 1897 and on or before December 31, 1921

ARTICLE NUMBER	1. NAME (Print)	ORDER NUMBER
282	PEARL AVERAL WILLIS	10782

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) — Jamestown, Silvercreek Twp., Greene, Ohio
(Number) (Street) (City) (County) (State)
THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN OR THE LINE NUMBER WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 1 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL

3. MAILING ADDRESS — (If other address than given above)

4. TELEPHONE	5. AGE IN YEARS	6. PLACE OF BIRTH
	20	Jamestown, Ohio
	DATE OF BIRTH: April 26, 1921	

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS — Joseph E. Willis, Jamestown, O.

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS — Student Minister

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS — 2700 Hemmingway Ave., Clem., Ohio
(Number) (Street) (City) (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE — Pearl Averal Willis
(Registrant's signature)

In the summer of 1941, with a freshman's worth of school training, he was out in Clarion, a town within Wright County, Iowa, preaching in the Church of Christ under their minister, Bruce Matthews. Before returning to CBS for his sophomore year, he enticed Lucille Cline, his hometown sweetheart, to come to Iowa in September. They were married on September 5, 1941 by Matthews on the courthouse steps of Havelock, Iowa in Pocahontas County. Pearl also, encourage Lucille to enroll at CBS, which she did.

1943 Nautilus Yearbook of The Cincinnati Bible Seminary.
Pearl is the 5th from the right of the 2nd row.

Lucille was a sophomore in the spring of 1943. During 1943, Pearl was student preaching at the Church of Christ in Peebles, Ohio, a small village about an hour drive east of Cincinnati, in Adams County. While residing in Peebles, their son, Stephen Joe Willis, was born on May 26, 1943.

Pearl graduated the spring of 1944 and promptly took a temporary position with a church in Indiana. By mid-1945 Pearl became the pastor of a church in Bridgeport, Illinois, about 10-15 miles from the Indiana state line. Lucille stayed in Indiana awaiting the birth of their second child, Daniel Lee Willis, who was born Oct 1945.

By the end of 1946, Pearl Willis had been at Bridgeport for almost 2 years, resulting in 50 new members. Now it was time to move on to Flora, Illinois on Jan 1, 1947. Flora was about 30 miles due west of Bridgeport on Hwy 50. Another son, John Davis Willis, was born June 15, 1947 in Illinois. Pearl continues pastoring in Flora through 1950. Like the Apostle Paul, Pearl again got the call to move on to help another growing church.

In 1953, Pearl was the Senior minister for Chase Avenue Church of Christ located at Chase and Brookside Avenues in Cincinnati. Yet, ever on the move guided by God's hand, in 1956, Pearl was enticed by Madisonville Christian Church to lead a new church startup. Mavin Matthews succeeded Pearl at Chase.

Much like Apostle Paul, Pearl relished the challenge of starting and growing a new church! Lloyd Taylor was the minister at Madisonville Christian Church on the corner of Ward and Prentice streets. In 1956, James Furniss, who succeeded Lloyd, became the minister at Madisonville and continued the push for planting a new church.

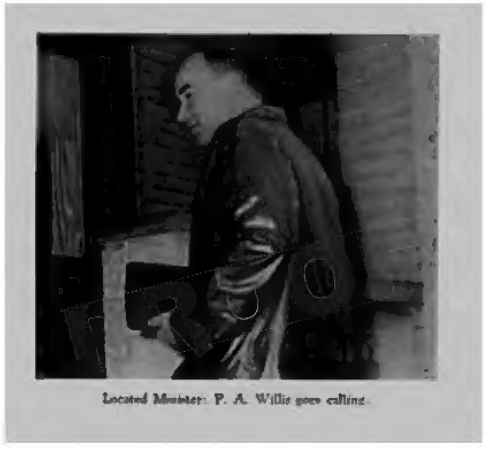
In addition to regular pastor duties, Pearl was involved in graduate studies at his old Alma Mater, CBS, in 1956 - always busy doing God's will.

In February 1956, P.A. and Lucille moved to a house at 8634 Cottonwood in Springfield Township, Hamilton County. Now they were positioned to serve a new location for a church fostered by Madisonville. Pearl was soon to be 36 years old! His talent of forming 'personal relationships' with everyone he met, would be the catalyst for his new 'goal' to succeed!

PROOF

Madisonville Christian Church at the corner of Ward and Prentice

It's Not a Job, it's Personal!



Located Minister: P. A. Willis goes calling.

After the War and into the 1950s, family formations surged! People were moving to new homes farther from the areas of their childhood. Churches had plans to grow disciples through church plantings into nearby growing areas of population. The method to grow was to use **personal evangelism**, i.e. one-on-one. Madisonville Christian wanted to plant a new church in Madeira and chose Pearl Willis to do it! As an initial thrust, they created a leaflet to hand out and tell where they would gather.

A STATEMENT ABOUT THE BELIEF OF THE MADEIRA CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Christian)

This church believes in the Bible Plan of salvation which involves the following:

(a) Belief in Christ. "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus and thou shalt be saved." (Acts 16:31)

(b) Repentance from Sin. "The times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent," (Acts 17:30)

(c) Confession of Faith in Christ. "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Romans 10:9)

(d) Baptism into Christ. "Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and yet shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38)

(e) Faithfulness to Christ. "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of Life." (Revelation 2:10)

We believe that the Bible is entirely sufficient as our rule of faith and practice.

HERE YOU WILL FIND A CHRISTIAN WELCOME

WELCOME TO

The Madeira Church Of Christ

(CHRISTIAN)

7421 East Galbraith Road

Cincinnati 43, Ohio

P.A. WILLIS, Minister

8075 Cottonwood Rd. (31) Phone JAckson 1-2718

This small paper pamphlet was handed out to spread the word about the new church in Madeira. Above is the front and back of leaflet, next are the inside pages. Also, you see where the property has been acquired but not yet remodeled for holding church service until June. In the interim, they will meet in someone's home.

You see a statement of what the church believes.
Also, the church is to be Bible based.

SOME FACTS CONCERNING THE MADEIRA CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Christian)

After several months of careful and prayerful planning on the part of the minister and members of the Madisonville Christian Church it was decided to take definite action toward the establishment of a New Testament Congregation in the Madeira area. This section of the city, was selected because of the influx of population in the past few years together with the request of many members of the Christian Church living in the community who were desirous of having a Church of Christ in their own locality.

In January of 1957 the Madisonville Congregation extended a call to Brother P. A. Willis, formerly minister of the Chase Avenue Church of Christ of Cincinnati, to serve as their evangelist in establishing the new work. Immediately the new minister, assisted by John Carter, editor of the Standard Publishing Foundation, began Prayer Meeting services in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Allman of 7325 Thomas Drive.

The present church property, made possible by the Madisonville Christian Church, is located at 7421 East Galbraith Road.

FIRST SERVICES TO BE CONDUCTED SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 1957

The Madeira Church of Christ (Christian) is now happy to announce that plans are completed for the commencement of regular worship services. These services will begin on Sunday, June 2, 1957 and will be conducted in the church property, a large frame dwelling, located at 7421 East Galbraith Road.

Following is the schedule of regular worship services of the new congregation:

Sunday Services
Bible School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:30
Evening Worship 7:30

Wednesday
Prayer Meeting 7:30

NEW CHURCH OFFERS WELL ORGANIZED BIBLE SCHOOL

Under the guidance of the eldership of the Madisonville Christian Church, capable and qualified teachers have been selected from the membership of the new congregation to serve in the Bible School. These teachers have already received training and had much experience in their field of service.

There will also be Bible School Classes arranged for those of all ages where all will feel most welcome.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED

The Madeira Church of Christ (Christian) is vitally concerned for the entire family and has made provisions for a nursery to care for the babies and smaller children so that the parents may attend the worship services of the church.

Now the place to gather! Like Priscilla and Aquila opened their home to the Apostle Paul (see 1 Corinthians 16:19), Maxine and Bob Allman opened theirs to Pearl Willis and those wanting to attend the new church. On January 7, 1957 prayer meeting services began in the **Allman home** at 7325 Thomas Drive.

Robert and Maxine Allman: Their journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ.

So, who are the 'Allmans' and what was their foundation for such great faith, to open their home for a new church start-up?

Both Bob Allman and Maxine Howland grew up in Eagle Township of Brown County (east of Cinti), Ohio. Both their parents were farmers and they knew one another.

Robert 'Bob' Lloyd Allman was born May 30, 1920 in Sardinia of Brown County, Ohio to Clarence and Myrta Allman. He grew to a height of 5'9" with brown eyes and brown hair, weighing about 135 lbs. Bob's mother passed away in 1934 just before Bob's 14th birthday. Bob, along with his older sister Ruby (yes - Ruby), were helping their father on the farm well into 1940.

Ruby (yes - Ruby) Maxine Howland was also from Brown County, Ohio being born September 8, 1923. Ruby Maxine, along with older brother Lawrence, were also helping their parents, Raliegh G., and Edna H., on the farm. Another family relative, W. Earl Howland, was a member of the Sardinia Church of Christ as early as 1913. The Allmans were members there as well in later times, building a family history of faith.

Farm life was not Bob's vision of the future. His interests in electricity lead him to Cincinnati. By 1941, Bob was renting a room from Mrs. Mable Adkins at 980 Fairbanks Ave. His career in electronics began as a warehouse packer of electronics for the Crosley Company. Crosley was into building automobiles, owning radio stations, producing consumer electronics, and owning the Cincinnati Reds baseball team.

Maxine Howland had also left the farm for a career in the big city of Cincinnati. At 18, she was serving as a nurse's aide at Christ Hospital and attending their nursing school. She resided on the institution's premises as well. But Bob and Maxine kept in contact. They obtained a marriage license on Dec 30, 1941, marrying before year's end, and living at Bob's rented room on Fairbanks. After all, Pearl Harbor had just occurred and it was changing the future plans of everyone, including the Allmans.

Fascinating Fact: Ann McKnight (1940-43), Maxine Allman (1941), and Virgina Hartley (grad 8-16-1945) were at Christ Hospital School of Nursing together! You'll meet the other two ladies shortly. Were these ladies being together a part of God's guiding hand for the future church - maybe?

In June 14, 1942 Bob joined the Navy and trained to become a RM2c (Radio Man, 2nd class). His work at Crosley certainly helped. On the commissioning day, March 1, 1944, for the AP-00 (renamed 'The Samaritan' but always went by her AP-00 designation), Bob was there serving aboard. The ship had just been recommissioned as a hospital ship for the Pacific Theatre. When the war ended, Bob was discharged at the beginning of 1946.

Bob and Maxine where now able to return to a normal married life like so many others who had loved ones in the military. Gary Lyn Allman was born on October 2, 1946. By June 1947, they bought their first house at 5659 Bramble Avenue. Maxine kept the home together and Bob was working as a repair serviceman for Dictaphone, out of their home.

Soon, Darla Gay Allman was born on June 11, 1952, followed by her sister, Sharon Lynn Allman, born on January 30, 1954. The house on Bramble Avenue was close to their church, Madisonville Christian Church at Ward and Prentice. Still, the house was getting crowded and they wanted better schools for their kids. Hence, the move to Madeira. They bought a house, newly built at 7235 Thomas Dr, on September 7, 1955 after selling the Bramble house on August 23, 1955.

So, began the offering of their home for prayer services of the newly planted, Madeira Church of Christ! A church where their kids would attend while growing up, just like myself (Mike Boettcher). Being invited into someone's home is personal, like being a part of the family. And they did make you feel welcomed. There will be more to learn about Bob and Maxine's story as well.

Here's the Allman family at the back of the house on E. Galbraith used for church services. Bob, Maxine, Darla, Sharon, and Gary. (abt. 1957)

PROOF

The 'House' of Worship

The people gathering at the Allmans were presented a house for their use as a sanctuary. Trustees of Madisonville Christian purchased the 2-acre property on East Galbraith (formerly known as Kugler Mill Road) from Lincoln Carter on April 22, 1957. Front and rear pictures of the original church 'house,' at 7421 East Galbraith (pictures taken on Aug 1958). First services were held on June 2, 1957. Bedrooms were tuned into Sunday school rooms.

The church office was also used for an adult classroom. Notice the goal of 10 attendees!

This is the main room of the house used for breaking bread together. Pete Flynn, with the bowtie, is in the center. At the far end of his row is Lucille Willis next to the window drapes. Peggy Perkins is leaning forward close to the piano on the far left. I believe Susan Babik is the lady with glasses looking directly at the camera. You'll notice in the next picture of the sanctuary, we had upgraded to metal folding chairs.

PROOF

December 1957, first winter in the farmhouse church.

On left; Earl Franklin is with Mollie, Sylvia, and Mike Boettcher (yes, me the author) at the front door of the house church.

You will see more pictures of the Franklins involved in the church. But their journey began in different states, Ohio and Kentucky.

PROOF

Earl and Nell Franklin: Their journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ

Earl Dewey Franklin was born June 17, 1898 when his father, George W, was 40 and mother, Minnie L (Milligan), was 27. They were married on July 1, 1891 by a Baptist minister in Hamilton County, Ohio. His father was a shipping clerk in Cincinnati for a piano company. Earl was the fourth of six children. When Earl was 12, his parents divorced with the children living with the father on Eastern Avenue.

Nellie was the oldest of eight children born to Connie and Edith Wheeler. She was born on February 20, 1903 in Gallatin, Kentucky. Her father was a farmer and with just two boys, the six girls were all needed to help in the fields.

Earl enlisted in ***the*** big war at the time, which we now call WW I. Earl was living at 1625 Powers Street in Cincinnati when he enlisted on Nov 21, 1917 at Fort Thomas, Kentucky. As a private, Earl was part of the Battery C 18th Field Artillery seeing action at Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, and St Mihiel; Meuse-Argonne in France.

This area was described as the Defensive Sector, American Expeditionary Forces Earl was in Europe from April 21, 1918 until January 19, 1919 Earl remembered it being a very brutal winter But God kept him safe for the work the Lord had for him.

During a physical on his return to Camp Sherman, Ohio, he found he had 'Arrested Pulmonary Tuberculosis' He was recommended for vocational training due to this disability and honorably discharge on March 1, 1919 The military provided vocational training as a machinist from June 1920 to Oct 1921 During this training, he was paid eighty dollars a month. Good wages for 1921

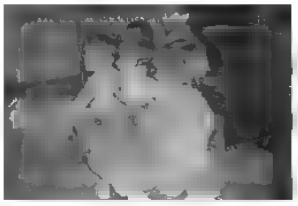
Earl lived with his married sister Carrie and her family on Dreman Avenue while working as a machinist along with his younger brother William His brother George with his family, rented part of the same large home from Carrie and her husband, Robert Ruff

Nell worked as a cook and waitress at a local restaurant nearby I haven't learned how they met but her cooking skills would surely entice Earl to frequent the eatery His engaging personality (I can personally vouch for this trait) would have brought them together

By 1935, Nell and Earl were married (December 1929) and owned a home on Evelyn Road, part of White Oak (Green Township) in Hamilton County, Ohio They lived there until 1952 During this time, they found they were unable to have children of their own and began adoption proceedings In January1945, the Franklins adopted a boy They named him Kenneth Earl Franklin

The Franklins lived in Mt Washington on Oxford Avenue a short time They were members of Madisonville Christian Church who provided the startup funding for Madeira Several of the families who formed the founding group for the Madeira church, were Madisonville folks Their son, Ken, attended Withrow High School before going into the Navy Ken served as a Naval SeaBee in Vietnam This was a nickname for the 'Construction Battalion (CB).' In 1974, Earl and Nell moved to 7258 Rita Lane in Madeira, near the Cowgill's home at 7251 Again, we will learn more about both of them!

Nell and Earl at their Rita Lane home where they welcomed many in for a great home cooked meal!



Dec 4, 1957
(R L) **Lora Gross, Darla Allman,** and others

The Allmans were described earlier Here Darla Allman is with Lora Gross in a childrens Bible School class held in a bedroom of the 'house' church. Lora's parents were there from the begining as well

Louis 'Smoke' and Mary Gross: Their journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ

Louis Melvin Gross was born Oct 15, 1922, to Albert and Lorena Gross His parents lived at 5717 Prentice Street, less than three blocks from the intersection with Ward Street where Madisonville Christian Church was located This was the area where Louis grew up and called home. His father worked in the printing business but a sister, Viola, worked as a telephone operator She convinced her brother Albert to join the construction department of the growing telephone company, Cincinnati & Suburban Bell Company

Louis' older brother, Albert T Gross, Jr (born March 9, 1918), worked as a lineman for Cinti & Suburban Bell before the Second World War Albert Jr continue the same work (setting up communications lines) as a Marine corporal on Iwo Jima (part of the 2nd Marine Air Wing, Aviation group). He was also nicknamed 'Smoke' Gross After returing from Cinti Bell he died at 65 leaving a wife, Betty (Rolfes) Gross

Louis was in the Navy, joining Oct 26, 1942, and was discharged Oct 27, 1945 He served on the USS Rochambeau (acquired from the Free French when the ship was in the Philippines at the time war was declared It was a troop transport casualty evacuation ship) Later, Louis served aboard the USS Euryale (a submarine tender stationed in the Pacific) from Sept 7, 1944 to August 1945 When docked at Pearl Harbor, the path began for sending him back to the mainland for processing out On both ships, he served as a pharmacist's mate third class (PhM3c) working up to second class (PhM2c) before his discharge

During Louis time in the Navy and stationed in California, he married Marie Jean Eich (born January 8, 1927) on June 1, 1943 (she was 16), After Louis was discharged, he and Marie lived at 6707 Beechmont in Cincinnati, her parents' (Julius and Mary) home. They were together in 1948 but soon divorced by 1949 In 1950, Marie was married to W R Nevill

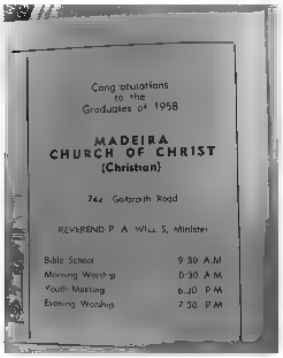
Louis was now rooming with his parents back on Prentice Street where they have lived since before 1920 Louis was working at the telephone company as an installer while his dad was a foreman at the same company

Mary M. Fugate was born a coal miner's daughter She was born April 11, 1927 to Granville (coal miner in Hazard Kentucky) and Rachel (nee Combs) Fugate But Mary made her way to Ohio by 1950 She was working as a waitress in a local restaurant She had a ground floor apartment on Mongomery Road. Seems like another restaurant meeting romance of two people like the Franklins' Louis (Smoke) Gross married Mary Fugate on Jun 30, 1950 Another personal relationship forged by God maybe!

Lora Jean Gross was born Feb 22, 1952 Lora, was in the same grade class as Darla Allman all through school at Madeira. Hence the connection with the picture above Another daughter named Donna Sue Gross was born June 29, 1955

Mary and Smoke bought the house at 7813 Dee Street on Oct 19, 1955 This was directly across the street from Clarence and Peggy Perkins Being Madisonville Christian members, the start of a church closer to their new home was a welcomed event

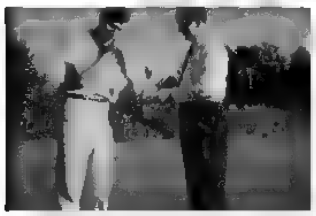
The 'House Church' on East Galbraith This picture of the Boettchers with the Allman kids, (L-R) Back row Sylvia and Mo.he Boettcher, Gary Allman, front row Darla and Sharon Allman, Mike Boettcher Summer 1958



1958 Madeira High School Yearbook ad by the church. Pearl did not appreciate being labeled "Reverend." He preferred 'pastor' or 'minister' or 'brother' Willis.

The title Reverend was often given to all ministers in public ads, like the phone book, etc.

Churches often had competitions with other churches to generate excitement in the congregations. This may be collecting donations for a specific mission project or even a friendly softball game! But this competition was personal! Who could invite the most people into their church and become members! It was the summer of 1958!



It was August 1958 when the tally was settled and the winner declared! Above Pearl Willis accepts the winner's trophy from Forestdale minister, Harvey Bream, Jr.! My dad, Ray Boettcher is standing next to Pearl Willis at the Forestdale grave marker.

Raymond and Norma Boettcher: Their journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ. (*These are my parents so I caution the reader in the wording, as I may be more boastful than with others I profile!*)

Raymond Herbert Boettcher was born on New Years' Eve 1921 to Johanna and Albert 'Val' Valentine Boettcher. He was the ninth of ten children, two of whom died within their first year. Val immigrated from Germany as a young boy with his father, Frederick Boettcher. Ray grew up on the city streets of Cincinnati, even getting kicked out of school the last month of his senior year. After a stint in the Civilian Conservation Corp and a year filling mattresses, Ray joined the Navy on October 13, 1941. Two months later, Pearl Harbor happened and World War II began officially for America.

Norma Lee Hewitt was the fifth of six children born to Harry and Mary Edith 'Mollie' Hewitt. She was born on September 16, 1920. Harry worked at Cincinnati Chemical Works making textile dyes. His son Cassius worked there as well as son-in-law John Montgomery. Norma graduated from Madeira High School in 1939.

Norma and Ray met by accident, truly by accident. Ray was serving aboard a Liberty ship as part of a Naval Armed Guard detachment. They manned the guns to defend the shipment of soybeans in the compartments of the Liberty ship. When departing New York Harbor on December 14, 1942, Ray's ship was hit by another ship putting a large gash in the side. Upon returning to New York for repairs, the group was given liberty while the work was underway. Ray decided to go home for Christmas.

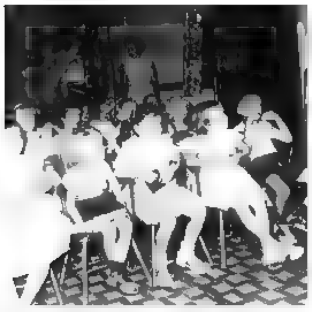
Ray met Norma while visiting SS Kresges to take his sister-in-law to lunch. Norma tagged along. During the rest of the war letters were written back and forth between the two. Upon his discharge in February 1946, they married on April 13, at Hyde Park Methodist-Episcopal Church.

They lived with Norma's parents and her father Harry got Ray a job at Cincinnati Chemical Works alongside other family members. Their first child, a daughter named Mollie Ann, was born February 13, 1947. When Norma became pregnant with a second child, they were strongly encouraged to find a home of their own. Harry even helped with the downpayment for the home.

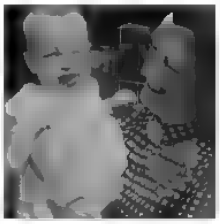
Ray and Norma bought a house at 5615 Chandler Street, in Madisonville a few blocks from Madisonville Christian. Another daughter arrived on July 4, 1948 and was named Sylvia Rae Boettcher. The house was only four rooms, a bedroom, a bath, a kitchen and living room for a total of 700 square feet. It was built in 1906. When another child, a boy named Raymond Michael Boettcher (yes, me), arrived on September 29, 1949, plans were made to save for a bigger house.

It wasn't until March 21, 1952 they were able to sell and move into a house at 7895 Camargo Road in Madeira. Norma wanted to be in Madeira because she felt they had better schools. They were attending Madisonville Christian Church. Ray was raised in the Lutheran church and had been christen as a child. Mollie and Sylvia were also christened as infants, at Columbia Methodist by William H Huber, the minister. Ray learned he needed to be baptized. He was emersed at Madisonville Christian by Lloyd J. Taylor on May 14, 1953 and Norma officially joined as a member. All three kids attended VBS in June 1956 at the church. When Madeira Church of Christ was started, Ray and Norma were there to participate in the new community of believers.

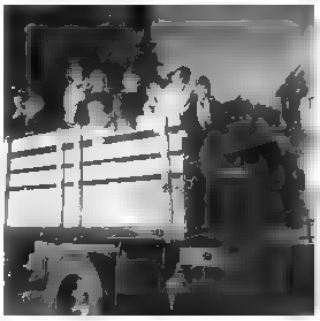
Ray's work was being moved to Tom's River, New Jersey in 1959 and the Cincinnati plant was to be closed. He was offered to transfer to NJ for a job. But he and Norma agreed to chance finding a new job in Cincinnati. They wanted to keep their promise to God about the Madeira church startup. Ray was at times the church's trustee and Elder. Norma assisted Peggy Perkins with the kids and helped in the church office.

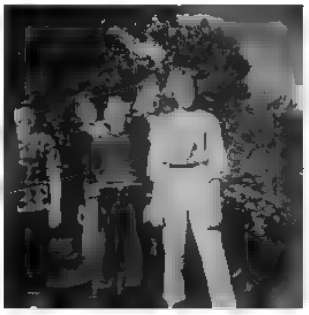


Norma Boettcher and Peggy Perkins shown in the back of their Sunday school kids class of the church house. Norma is holding one of the kids.



August 1958, Mrs. Lucille Willis holding a baby girl outside the 'house' Church and Pearl A Willis, Lucille his wife visiting at the Allman's home.





The church had a youth group hayride in September 1958 on the church property using a large truck with bales of hay aboard. The picture on the right shows some of the kids. In the second picture, the three kids on the right are Mike and Sylvia Boettcher with sister Mollie peeking out over their shoulders. We didn't have a youth minister but the parents and others in the church would come up with activities for the kids. Sylvia remembers roller-skating with others in the Allman's basement. She would use the first-floor support poles to swing herself around and fly in the opposite direction!

December 1958, Perkins Basement, church gang eating (R-L) Nell and Earl Franklin, Pearl and Lucille Willis, then Pete Flynn to their right. All were part of the Madisonville folks fostering Madeira church's startup and the initial active members at Madeira

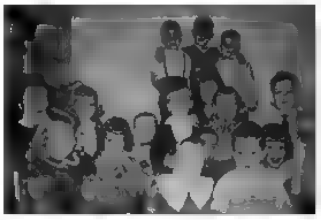
Pete and Shirley Flynn Their journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ

Wilbur 'Pete' Lee Flynn was born in Butler County, Ohio on November 11, 1924 to Ralph and Florence 'Flossie' Flynn. But his parents were from Kentucky and as often happened, families would bounce across the Ohio River looking for work. Ralph and family returned to the family farm in Grassy Creek, Kentucky. Farming is hard work for little money. Ralph made his way back to Cincinnati and found work as a machine operator at Cincinnati Milling Machine Company. They family rented the downstairs of a house at 3881 Isabella Avenue in Oakley, just off Madison Road. The owners, Joseph, and Barbara Schiesler, had the top floor of the 2 story home. He also worked at the machine company with Ralph.

Wilbur got a job at Kroger's Grocery and Baking Co on Madison Road just a few blocks from his home on Isabella. He worked in the meat department which helped him working aboard the USAT George W. Goethals during WW II. The ship was an Army troop transport boat bringing soldiers back to the US and taking fresh recruits to Europe. Wilbur had been at sea since 1943. During one such trip from France to New York in May 1945, Wilbur is listed as a third-class butcher of the three butchers on board. Must have been a tough job cutting meat every day for the almost 2,000 men being transported.

Shirley Lee Miller was born May 28, 1929 to Roy and Orinda Miller living on Homer Avenue just ten blocks from the Madisonville Christian Church. Wilbur Flynn was living off Madison Road and not far from the church as well. She worked as an office clerk when she married Wilbur on June 30, 1950. He was 25 and she was 21. Wilbur was working as a shipping clerk at a retail store.

I don't know when Wilbur Flynn got the nickname 'Pete' but this was what everyone called him around the church. Pete and Shirley had a daughter on August 18, 1951. Soon twin boys, Timothy and Thomas, followed. Eventually, they bought a house in Springdale at 11828 Ramsdale on Aug 2, 1960. Pete was part of the leadership team fostering Madeira Christian Church in its early years.



December 21, 1958, Peggy Perkin's Sunday school class in the 'house' Church.

Clarence 'Perk' and Peggy Perkins: Their journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ.

Clarence was the oldest of four boys and a girl (born last). He was born Feb 6, 1920 in Ohio to Orr Wesley and Lillian Ruth Perkins. Orr married Ruth on July 29, 1919. Orr worked as a machinist when first married, both living with his parents on Hannaford Street in Norwood. By 1930, Orr had moved his growing family to Hunter Avenue still in Norwood. Moving again, the Orr Perkins family bought a new home at 1947 Maple Leaf Avenue in Norwood.

Peggy Ann Miller was born to Homer W. and Pagie H. Miller on March 7, 1923. During 1941, she was renting an apartment at 2312 Adams Ave in Norwood while Clarence rented a room at 4312 Ivanhoe Avenue, also in Norwood. The story is told that they met when Peggy rode her bike past Clarence sitting on his porch at Ivanhoe. They locked eyes on each other, so the story goes.

Clarence was a clerk in the offices of Leblond Machine Tool Company, while taking some college courses. The company manufactured metal cutting lathes. Clarence's father worked there as well. LeBlond Machine Tool Company was located at 2980 Madison Road, Norwood, Hamilton County, Ohio.

Clarence and Peggy were married just before he enlisted in the Army on Aug 3, 1942 at Fort Thomas, Newport, Kentucky. At 5'6" Clarence served as a warrant officer during the war. A warrant officer in order of rank was someone above all enlisted personnel but immediately below all commissioned officers.

While serving in the Army, Clarence became a father! Kenneth Wesley Perkins was born March 26, 1943. After serving his country, Clarence returned to work at LeBlond. When another son arrived, Philip Alan Perkins on Feb 14, 1951, Clarence and Peggy were ready to plant roots in Madeira. They bought a house at 7814 Dee Street on Sept 11, 1951. Two more children came along, Daniel (1953) and Nancy (1956), to fill out the house. This was their home for the next 69 years.

I don't know where they attended church prior to Madeira. They were definitively founding members from the beginning in 1957. Clarence served as an Elder while Peggy dedicated herself to educating the children. Peggy was Sunday School superintendent for a time. She was involved in Vacation Bible School and taught children's classes for many years. Maybe they were transplants from Madisonville Christian like so many others I do know. The Perkins and Boettchers often got together for vacation trips and meals at restaurants.

January 1959, Church meal. Pearl Willis (picture on right) carving meat while being watched by Maxine Allman, at the Madisonville Christian Church fellowship hall.

January 1959 (L-R) Ray Boettcher, Paul Tabor, Pete Flynn, Pearl Willis, and Bob Allman of the leadership team. On the right is a church meal layout at Madisonville.

Paul L. and Winifrede J. Tabor: Their journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ.

George Henry Tabor married Rebecca Jane "Becky" Napier on New Year's Eve, 1903, in Wayne County, West Virginia. He was 20 and Becky was 19 when the married in the home of her father, William Napier. They had a son named Clarence Ernest Tabor born on December 4, 1904 while still living in West Virginia. By 1910, George moved his family to Waverly Ave in Cincinnati working as a streetcar motorman. Paul Lancaster Tabor was born on April Fool's Day, 1923. He was assuredly a surprise for George and Becky, who were now 40 and 39 years old, respectfully.

Brother Clarence married Margret Bryan on November 22, 1926, when Paul was 3 years old. He made a home with his new bride on Bramble Avenue in Oakley, working as a policeman. In 1930, Paul and his parents were living on Conover Street in Madisonville. This was just around the corner from Madisonville Christian Church at Ward and Prentice.

Winifrede Jeanne Kirby was born on May 19, 1923 in Cincinnati to John and Louise Kirby. They made their home on Whitney Place, also in Madisonville. Both Winifrede and Paul attended the same school beginning in kindergarten. At this early age, boy and girls did not talk to each other. Girls had cooties and they were believed to be contagious! Yet, in the seventh grade these two began to converse and began a close relationship all through school including into their Withrow High School years.

In 1940, George moved his family to a home on Mt Carmel Road in the Summerside area near Batavia. This resulted in Paul attending Batavia High in his senior year. Yet, George found the drive into Cincinnati was lengthy. George quickly moved the family back to Madisonville for the better drive to work. They lived on Madison Road and were again within a few blocks of Madisonville Christian Church.

In 1942, Paul was working at Albers Supermarket (at Spring Grove and Mitchell Roads) when he was classified 4F for the WW II draft. This was due to having polio as a child. Thankfully, the disease did not progress to require a wheel chair or an iron lung machine. And he did keep in touch with Winifrede!

They married June 24, 1944. She was a stenographer, living with her parents on Whitney Place. This was close to Bramble Avenue where Paul's older brother, Clarence, lived. After they married, home was an apartment in Mt. Lookout. When first child Terrance, came along on December 18, 1945, the family moved to make a home on Miller Road near Blue Ash, Ohio.

Soon Paul began working for The Crosset Company, a food produce wholesaler. As foreman, Paul remained with the company until retirement. Another child, a girl named Holly, was added on August 26, 1953. By the end of 1955, Paul had moved his family to a beautiful home at 8281 Kenwood Road. This was just a block from East Galbraith and less than 2 miles from where Madeira Church was to be built. Paul was made a Trustee of Madeira Church of Christ when it incorporated on January 2, 1959.

The Tabor's were friends and a customer of Bob Allman's TV service, having him to their house to fix their TV several times. Also, Bob delivered a new Zenith color television first introduced in 1961. A 20-inch console would cost about $500 in 1967. During the 1960s, Winifrede directed the church choir for a time. On June 5, 1966, Paul's brother Clarence unexpectedly passed away at the age of 62. The Tabors were always a giving couple, both with their time and their warm smiles.

Madisonville Christian had chosen well when selecting Madeira as a place to plant a new church. Madeira was growing quickly and gained city status in August 1959. And of course, some members of the leadership team would discuss church issues while waiting for the fish to bite (Pete Flynn and Ray Boettcher 1958-9). Picture taken next to Ray's garage at his home on Camargo Road.

Build it, for they **HAVE** come!

On February 2, 1959, Madeira Church of Christ incorporated to be able to operate in owning property and borrow money. The initial Trustees were Paul Tabor, Raymond Boettcher, and Orian McElfresh. On May 29, 1959, Madisonville Christian trustees transferred the property on E. Galbraith to Madeira Church of Christ.

Orian and Elenora McElfresh Their journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ.

Orian Willis McElfresh was born Aug 23, 1904 to Horace and Nellie McElfresh in Kentucky, along the Ohio river in a small town called California. His father tried his hand at selling insurance. While a traveling salesman, he met his wife Nellie in Pennsylvania where they married in 1903. By 1910, the family relocated to Cleveland, Ohio as Horace continued his hand at selling. Still moving around they found their way to Hamilton County, Ohio in 1920. Horace bought a house at 3632 Marburg Ave which runs north into Madison Avenue at the Oakley Square. Horace has now given up the selling career for railway work as a streetcar motorman. Also, a daughter was born in 1913 to the McElfresh named Anne.

Upon graduating East Night High School, Orian found work in a law office as a clerk. While doing research work for the lawyers at the Cincinnati Public Library, Orian met Mona Harrup who work there. Horace died on February 22, 1931, leaving Orian as head of the family. Yet, on October 3, 1931, Mona and Orian married. Orian now needed to find a better paying job. Thinking of his dad's selling experience, Orian began working for The Fry Brothers Co. They made soaps and cleaning chemicals for the laundry industry and Orian sold their products.

Soon as sales manager, Orian was able to buy his own home on Drake Road in Indian Hil. Mona and Orian added a son to their family on July 31, 1939. They named him, John 'Horace' McElfresh, after Orian's father. Then the political turmoil in Europe happened and the marriage got difficult. Orian began staying with his mother on Marburg Avenue when he entered the Army on January 24, 1942, just over a month after Pearl Harbor.

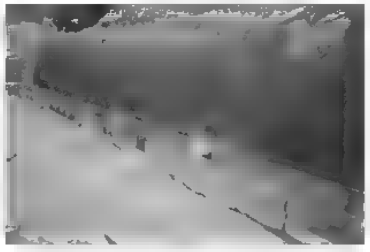
Orian returned from the war, being discharge on August 13, 1945. But the marriage was over as well as the war. Still, Orian was able to return to a job at Fry Brothers.

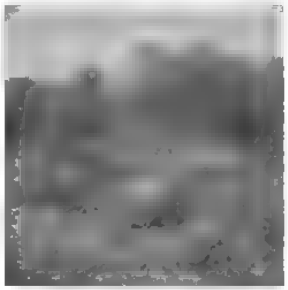
During all these times, a daughter was born to William and Elsie Koenig in Ohio, named Elenora on April 13, 1907. She lived on Lucerne Avenue with her parents, just a few blocks from where Madisonville Christian Church was located. My how many folks lived near this church. After graduating high school, she worked at the Employment Bureau, eventual becoming a supervisor at the young age of 22. Still wanting to find better work, Elenora found her way to Cleveland, Ohio working in the office for a wholesale paper company. This is where she met Orian who was now the Fry Bros. office manager responsible for purchasing all company supplies. Paper products were some of the many items 'The Fry Bros. Company' offered to their laundry customers. And Orian bought these from Elenora's company. Elenora returned to her parent's home on Lucerne, eventually marrying Orian in 1947. She was 40 and he was 44. Funny how God brought two people from Cincinnati together in the far off town of Cleveland.

Initially, the McElfresh couple rented the first floor of a house on Erie Avenue, not far from their parents on Lucerne and Marburg. But in 1951, they were able to buy a home at 6571 Euclid in Madeira. Having been attending church at Madisonville, they were another early member of the new church startup, Madeira Church of Christ. In May of 1955, Elenora was honored along with others for their work as 'Volunteers for Veterans' in Hamilton County. She cared for everyone she met!

June 7, 1959 Ground breaking begins for the new Sanctuary. Pete Flynn at podium (left pic), Pearl Willis with shovel (right pic). Cost is estimated to be $60,000 including furnishings (in 1959 dollars).

June 7, 1959 Looking over Earl Franklin's shoulder from the back corner of the house church. Two members of the Madeira church are at the shovel participating in the ground breaking ceremonies. There was an excitement in the air! By July 1959, grading begins for the new church and the digging of the basement





By August 1959 they were delivering concrete blocks for the basement wall

On August 15, 1959, a Saturday, Susan Babik (on left) with Leona Myers are shown here setting up one of the church's many gatherings to break bread together. This church certainly loved to eat together!

Jerry and Susan Babik: Their journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ

Susan Babik was born Susan Isabel Ritenour on January 23, 1932 to Millard and Blanche Ritenour living on Grape Grove Road near Jamestown, Ohio *(She had an older sister, Anna Louise, born twelve years earlier. You'll meet her later in the book as Mrs. McKnight)* Millard was 50 at the time and a farmer. Blanche was 48. Jamestown, you will remember, is the hometown of Pearl Willis and Lucille. They were much older and knew her older sister.

Jerry Frank Babik was born September 25, 1931 in Garfield Heights to Frank and Katie Babik, Czechoslovakian immigrants. Frank was a sausage worker while raising Jerry in the Cleveland, Ohio area.

Jerry's mother Katie died in a state hospital from a lung ailment on December 5th 1941, two days before Pearl Harbor She had been in the hospital over four years Jerry and his dad began living with Uncle Paul to make ends meet. Jerry was a very bright individual He graduated Valedictorian from Cleveland South High School in 1950, where he played varsity baseball His sharp intellect repeated when attending Ohio State University He graduated Summa Cum Laude in 1954 with his Bachelor of Science degree

But during these college years, Jerry and Susan were married on Sept 18 1953 while Jerry was a student at OSU and Susan attended Cincinnati Bible Seminary (CBS) It seems Jerry and a friend were setup on a double-blind date with some CBS female students Fortunately, I would guess, one of the girls was sick and Susan was asked to be the fill-in blind date for Jerry They met as strangers but a spark blossomed into love Getting her dad's go-ahead was important because dad was very protective of his baby girl There was clearly a God connection happening and not a typical match by friends or family The day before Jerry and Susan married in 1953, her dad fell off the roof of the house, but was okay enough to attend his daughter's wedding. They were married in Jamestown, by Paul E Weiner, Minister at Grape Grove Church of Christ.

Another connection of coincidence is with Pearl Willis He knew Paul Wiener, who graduated from Cincinnati Bible Seminary (CBS) in 1948. Maybe Paul was the one who encouraged Susan to pursue musical studies at CBS Susan was part of the Choir and a quartet, among other things, like secretary in the Dean's office for Women's affairs. Also, she had the mimeograph duties and was VP of the Phileusebians (a literary society) during her 2nd semester

After marriage and college, Jerry joined the Army on November 8, 1955 and was discharged on Nov 7, 1957 at Fort Hood in Texas Jerry served with the 4th Armored Division, honorably discharged as First Lieutenant, but continued to serve with the Army Reserves, eventually reaching Captain The Babiks relocated to Cincinnati after he ended his military assignment A job at Procter & Gamble brought them from Ft Hood in Killeen, TX, to Cincinnati Jerry worked as an engineer During these hectic years, their family managed to grow with two beautiful boys The first was David Alan Babik born October 6, 1955 followed by Roger Wayne Babik, again in October, on the 23rd in 1956 They bought their first house at 2557 S Kathwood Circle in Cherryfield Acres of Reading It was a starter-home subdivision with them moving in on September 19, 1958. Soon after, the hoped for daughter, Linda Ann arrived on March 18, 1959

During this time, they began attending the church Susan's sister Anna was attending It was a startup headed up by former Jamestown, Ohio resident named Pearl Willis It wasn't long before the Babiks moved to Madeira on a street right behind Madeira Church of Christ They sold their house in Reading on November 23, 1965 moving to 8139 Oakbrook on December 13, 1965 Jerry and Susan were heavily involved in the church, Susan sang beautiful solos during church services and for many other occasions like weddings, and life-celebrations. Jerry was a dedicated member of the church's baseball activities when not devoting his many hours to prayers and as a church worship leader

Now it was Leona Myers who was setting up the meal with Susan Babik, remember

Ray Boettcher and Roy Myers doing some all-night fishing in 1958-9 I am sure they had some church business to discuss while waiting for a fish to bite!

Roy and Leona Myers: Their journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ

Roy B. Myers was born to Benjamin and Sarah Myers on May 25, 1928 in Russellville of Brown County, Ohio. You'll remember Bob and Maxine Allman grew up in this same county. Roy had an older brother named Ray and an older sister named Francis. Soon after Roy's birth, Benny moved the family east across the line into Adams County, Ohio. Here in Winchester, the kids helped dad around the farm. Roy's father was a regular attender of several churches of Christ including Batavia Church of Christ at the time he retired from farming.

After graduating high school, Roy was unable to secure full employment as a means of leaving the farm-life. So, as many young men do, Roy joined the Army, enlisting on March 28, 1949. After three years, Roy was discharged on October 13, 1952.

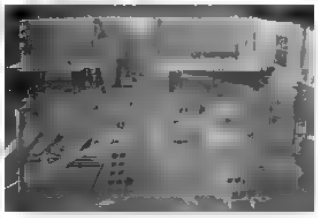
Leona Fae Waites was born to Raymond and Hester E. Waites on Nov. 8, 1925 in Buford of Highland County, Ohio which was just north of Brown County. Her father farmed as well, having five kids to help. Leona and brother Clyde stayed with dad on the farm after their mom passed away in 1947. Clyde went on to become an ordained minister within the Church of the Nazarene faith. This fact will be important later in the book, so remember it folks!

Roy and Leona met through their church and the close-knit farming communities in the area. Shortly after returning from the Army, Roy married Leona on January 18, 1953 in Highland County, where Leona was working as a secretary. But Roy (and wife) was still stuck on the farm with his dad.

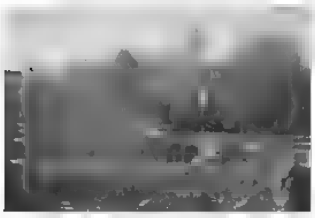
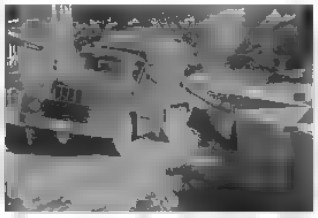
Eventually, Roy did find work at the Evendale plant of GE where jet engines were produced in Hamilton County, Ohio. A daughter, named Alice Renee Myers, arrived on March 12, 1954, prompting a need for a home of their own. The GE job allowed Roy and Leona to buy their first home on March 4, 1955 at 4324 Williams Avenue. The house was in Deer Park allowing easy travel north to Evendale and east to Madeira. Soon, a son, named Bennie Alan Myers delivered on March 15, 1956.

In looking for a church, the Myers were excited to find one so close. Their family was growing as much as the Madeira Church of Christ was growing and they were a part of it. The new church nursery would welcome a new Myers son, named Anthony Ray, on April 6, 1962.

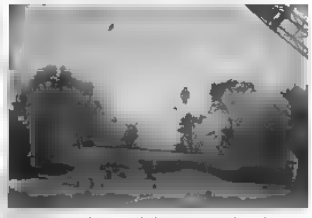
The Myers family at their Deer Park home on Williams Street. Roy is holding Ray and Benny is standing with Leona!
So, where's Renee?



It's October 1959 and the work is progressing on the basement's block wall.

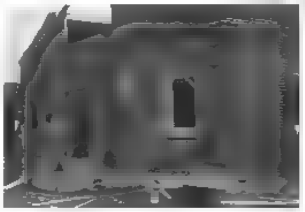



Also in October 1959, we are pouring the basement's concrete floor Things can now really move forward



It is now November of 1959 and we are setting the steel floor joist for the main floor (sanctuary) The community of believers can see the result of their personal witnessing to others God has truly blessed them with this building

Still in November of 1959, we see the steel frame going up to give a perspective of the dream moving ever upward Even the brickwork can be seen as starting!



Still before Thanksgiving in 1959, the brick work is happening so quickly all around the building including the front entrance One might think it would be done by spring! But everyone knows there's a thing called winter coming and it would slow the progress. Time to pray for a warm winter

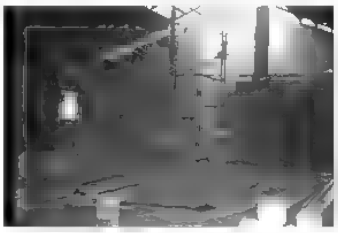
Building the new sanctuary doesn't mean life among its members comes to a stop! I can recognize Leona Myers at the corner of the table with her hand over her mouth, likely laughing at something. Looks like a baby shower with the stork on the table!

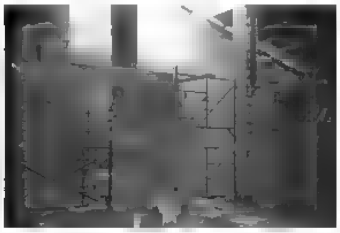
November 1959 Yes, other things are happening within the congregation!

A baby shower for Norma Boettcher was held in the Perkins' basement

Although, already having three children, all over the age of nine, God blessed Norma and Ray with a new bundle of joy Maybe Norma shouldn't have tossed those baby items away so soon!

Jennifer Lee Boettcher was later born on February 4, 1960





Here in December of 1959, workers continue to fight the cool to finish the roof around the front door But, as we said, life for the members does move forward We've a story to tell the world! And we can only tell it in person because it's personal to each of us!

Here is Christmas 1959! Members are gathered to go among the neighborhoods singing the story of Christ's arrival to whomever would hear! P A Willis is in the light brown overcoat, dark hat, and to the right of other man in the picture Elenora McElfresh is the lady with the purse, white gloves and a warm smile

50th Wedding Anniversary Observed

MADEIRA — An open house reception at home of the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Warren H. Clopton of 7813 Laurel Ave. here was held Sunday, January 31 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Allman, 7825 Laurel Ave. Mr. and Mrs. Clopton are natives of Newport, Ky., where Mrs. Clopton served as a Sunday school teacher. Both members they are devoted and active members of the Madeira [illegible] Church of Christ and their Christian influence has been an inspiration many times in this community.

Having been former members of the Mulberry Church of Christ many of their friends who attended were among the more than 75 guests who came to call for their congratulations.

Mr. and Mrs. Clopton have a daughter, Mrs. Marion Bennett, and six grandchildren, Gail and Glen Bechgit of Ohio Ash,

January 31, 1960, church members celebrated the Clopton's 50th Anniversary in the basement of the Allman's house

Warren and Alta Clopton: Their journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ

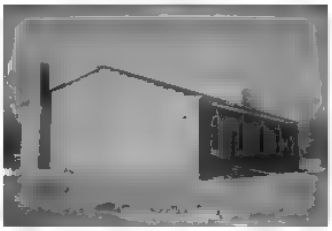
Henry Warren Clopton was born on August 25, 1887 to Henry Clay and Amanda 'Mandy' Clopton in Kentucky. Alta was born in September, 1887, to Martha and Alexander Thompson. After Alexander passed away, Alta's mother remarried in 1893, when Alta was five, to a Jacob Canady. Warren married Alta Thompson in January of 1910 in Calloway County, Kentucky. Warren was a farmer in Kentucky when their first child, Mary, was born in 1912. The year 1922 was a difficult time for Warren and Alta, losing their two-year-old son in June and losing a son the same day he was born on November 14th.

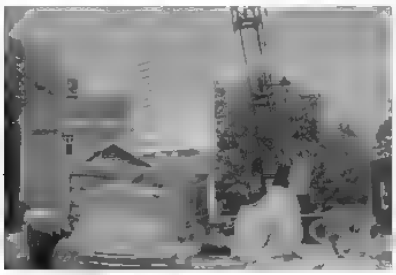
By 1930, Warren, Alta, and Mary moved to Newtown, Ohio. Warren finds work with the railroad and Alta works as a seamstress in a department store. Remember this was called the 'Depression' for a reason. Warren learns to be a fireman on the train with the railroad. To be home more, Warren eventually became an apartment building 'engineer' at Hutchins Avenue and Reading Road (Avondale area) in 1940. Basically, Warren oversaw the fire safety and maintenance for the building.

By March 1948, Warren and Alta bought their first house at 7813 Laurel Avenue in Madeira. It was built in 1923, had five rooms with only one bedroom. With no Church of Christ in town, they began attending Mulberry Church of Christ on Route 28 in Milford. Then the Cloptons learned about Madeira Church of Christ from Pearl Willis and Bob Allman when they came to visit in their home. This was called personal evangelism! Bob's TV shop was only two blocks down from the Clopton home, on the same Laurel Avenue. Bob's wife, Maxine, hosted a 50th Wedding Anniversary in her home for Warren and Alta.

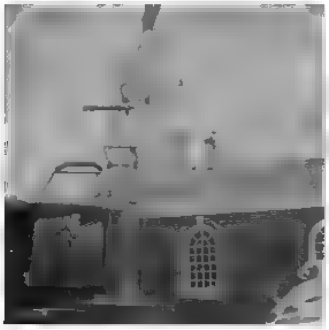
On February 4, 1960, soon after the Clopton's anniversary party, Jennifer Boettcher was born to Ray and Norma Boettcher!

It is now March of 1960! Brick work resumes in earnest, with efforts towards completing the roof after several winter stoppages. Below you see the front entrance porch being erected in April.





In May of 1960, we begin setting the all important steeple atop the new sanctuary with its cross. So, why is a steeple, with a cross, an important part of a church building?



The steeple with a cross was intended to be the tallest structure in a town. Some thought it was so its bells could be heard all over the area. Some believed God would be easier to reach if part of the church building was the highest of all other structures.

But maybe we can find a deeper meaning, a spiritual inspiration, in God's word. Going to John 12:32 we read "[32] **And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.**" This scripture seems to challenge us to lift the cross of Christ up for the all the world to see! So, by putting a cross on our steeple, anyone driving by might know we consider lifting up Christ's Cross as the mission of our church! A personal mission for each member. A visual testimony of who we are! Remember the hand activity earlier?

During May 1960, the work continues with finishing the outside of the building as they were placing the steeple (see the man with the steeple).

Also, May is when the pews had arrived and needing to be installed. Much of this work is being done by the members themselves to save money.

By June 1960, the pews, communion table, choir seating, podium and other furniture have been installed. After the flooring has been completed, the sanctuary is ready for a deep cleaning ahead of the first service! Gotta put out those hymnals, too!

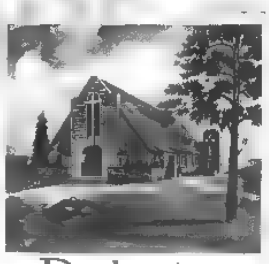
We even put flowers in the overflow balcony. Hey, shouldn't there be a railing?

Orian McElfresh was always a part of the activities at the church

Dedication service was held on **September 11, 1960**

Anna McKnight played the prelude followed by a call to worship. Then she played "Holy, Holy, Holy" as we all sang. It was wonderful! Willie E. Davis, minister at Madisonville Christian Church, gave the invocation prayer. Anna's sister, Susan Babik sang the special "He leadeth Me," also beautifully done! P. A. Willis then gave recognition to some folks and an offering was taken. Wilbur 'Pete' Flynn read a special scripture for the occasion. We sang another hymn, then Elmer Williams, General Contractor, presented the keys to Paul Tabor, church trustee of the building committee. Then the choir did a special song.

W. W. Perry, President of Cincinnati Bible Seminary, gave the dedicatory address, then P. A. Willis led the dedication response. Ray Boettcher gave a prayer of dedication for the building. James Wood did a special "Bless this House" performance. Then after another hymn, Orian McElfresh did the Benediction. A wonderful service to God's glory!



Dedication

"Behold, I build an house to the name of the Lord my God, to dedicate it to Him."

II CHRON. 2:4

Congregation: May multitudes here be born to God, so that when all these here today shall have gone to their eternal reward, others will take up the service until Jesus comes and all the are gathered home.

Minister: To the glory of God, our Father, by whose favor we have builded, to the honor of Jesus the Christ, the Son of the living God and our Saviour, to the praise of the Holy Spirit, source of life and light.

Congregation: We dedicate this house.

Minister: For the worship in prayer and song; for the ministry of the Word; for the observance of the holy ordinances.

Congregation: We dedicate this house.

Minister: To the sanctification of the family; to the training and nurture of childhood; to the inspiration of youth and the salvation of all.

Congregation: We dedicate this house.

Minister: To the help of the needy; to the promotion of brotherhood; to the extension of the kingdom through the whole wide world.

Congregation: We dedicate this house.

APPRECIATION

Members of the Madeira Church of Christ express appreciation to the Madisonville Christian Church who sponsored our beginning, also, to our many Christian friends who contributed to our building fund and furniture fund to make possible this lovely house of worship so beautifully furnished.

DEDICATION SERVICE
MADEIRA CHURCH OF CHRIST
2:30 p.m. September 11, 1960
P. A. Willis, Minister

PRELUDE	Mrs. Ann McKnight
CALL TO WORSHIP	
HYMN "Holy, Holy, Holy"	26
INVOCATION (Minister, Madisonville Christian)	Willie E. Davis
SPECIAL "He Leadeth Me"	Susan Babik
RESOLUTIONS AND OFFERTORY	Minister
SCRIPTURE LESSON	Wilbur Flynn
HYMN "The Church's One Foundation"	224
PRESENTATION OF THE KEYS (General Contractor)	Elmer Williams
ACCEPTANCE OF THE KEYS (Trustee Building Committee)	Paul Tabor
SPECIAL MUSIC	Choir
DEDICATORY ADDRESS (President, Cincinnati Bible Seminary)	W. W. Perry
THE ACT OF DEDICATION	Minister
PRAYER OF DEDICATION	Raymond Boettcher
SPECIAL "Bless This House"	James Wood
HYMN "All Hail the Power"	237
BENEDICTION	Orian McElfresh

THE ACT OF DEDICATION
(Congregation please stand and join in the responses)

Minister: We set apart this house to the worship of the living God, and to the service of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Congregation: We devote it to the preaching of the gospel of the grace of God for the conversion of sinners, and to the education of Christians in a knowledge of spiritual truth in all the relations of Christian life.

Minister: Here shall the incense of prayer and praise ascend to God. Here shall the ordinances of the Lord's house be sacredly observed.

Congregation: Here shall the Word of God which liveth and abideth forever be sounded out for the salvation of the perishing, and shine as a perpetual light to guide God's pilgrims through the night of time to the land of everlasting light.

Minister: Here may children of sin and sorrow find a refuge from despair and ruin, and Christians a harbor to which they can resort when the tempest is high, and be safe.

Congregation: May no discordant note of strife ever be heard within these walls, no unholy spirit of pride or worldliness find entrance here.

Minister: And may God graciously accept this offering of a house in His name, an offering made by grateful hearts and willing hands - and bless every heart that shares in this gift.

I (Mike Boettcher) remember being baptized on a Sunday evening (fall of 1960) at Madisonville because the farmhouse didn't have facilities and the new church's baptismal wasn't yet finished.

Charles and Anna McKnight. Their journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ.

Charles Richard McKnight was born on February 15, 1919 to William Erroll and Helen Carlyle McKnight in Detroit, Michigan. He grew up on Camargo Road in Sycamore Township where Indian Hill and Madeira boundaries came together near Bloome Road. *(John and Lena Doyle moved next door to the McKnights in 1945. You'll meet them later in the book.)* His father was an independent accountant and owned their house. Charles had taken two years in college to become a school teacher. His sister Jean and brother Erroll were also teachers. The university Richard attended was Cedarville located northeast of Cincinnati and east of Dayton. The school was also 6 miles northwest of Jamestown, Ohio. Remember when Jamestown, Ohio was mentioned earlier? Pearl Willis ring a bell?

Anna Louise Ritenour was born on November 18, 1919, on the family farm in the Grape Grove area of Ross Township in Ohio, to parents Millard Kerns and Edna Blanche (Little) Ritenour. Grape Grove was a farming area in Greene County where Jamestown was the nearest village. Anna's mother taught her how to sew and she made clothes for the family which were exquisite! A special quilt was made for Anna by her mother and was designed by her dad. She attended the same schools as Pearl Willis and Lucille Cline. After graduating high school, Anna went to the nearest college, Cedarville University.

Yes, this is where Anna and Richard met. He was the president of his freshman class. As a sophomore he met Anna who was a very popular freshman! Richard was involved in the Drama club, Student Council, basketball, baseball, and the YMCA.

When Anna began attending the university, she became involved in the YWCA, Chi Sigma Phi sorority, and the Women's Physical Education group (Tennis, folk dancing, basketball, Volleyball). The sport activities of these women were non-completive and only within their own school.

In addition, she was tasked with writing the freshman class history for the yearbook in which she said:

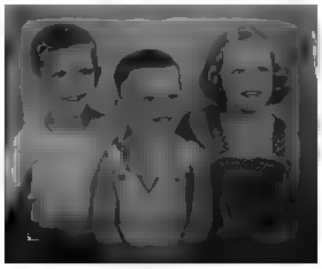
"The upper classmen had no pity for these freshmen, they heaped torment upon trouble. There were many peculiar sights around campus. Girls with braided hair, unmated shoes and hose, excessive amounts of jewelry, books in buckets and sacks of candy were a common sight. At that time, it was rumored that some of the girls gave Dr. Jurkat (Ed. He taught History and Language) candy in order to raise their grades. The tug of war at Willow Bend was rather one-sided. The sophomores used a safety measure, tying the rope to a stump, but the freshmen (almost) pulled Sophomores' stump, and all into the water.

Although we have had a few bad moments, the year has been an eventful and happy one. We are looking forward to our sophomore year with great anticipation. Anne Ritenour, Freshman."

Anna continued at Cedarville during the 1939-40 school year as Richard begins teaching for the Board of Education in Mason, Ohio. Anna switched careers by attending Christ Hospital School of Nursing in Cincinnati where she could be closer to Richard. This is where she became acquainted with Virginia Brock (future Mrs. Hartley) and Maxine Howland (future Mrs. Allman). *(You'll meet them in this book as well.)* Richard registered for the draft in October 1940 but he could see the turmoil happening in Europe. On July 25, 1941, Richard joins the Marines and is stationed on the American Samoa Islands in the Pacific when Pearl Harbor is attacked on December 7th. When he reaches stateside, still a private in 1943, it is his opportunity to marry Anna.

They were married at Grape Grove Church of Christ on September 8, 1943, a Wednesday, by Carl Matthews. Eventually, Richard becomes a Sergeant *(yes, that's the correct spelling)*. Anna would follow Richard to Camp Lejeune in North Carolina living in military housing. While living at the Marine camp, Anna was surprised when she delivered twins on March 28, 1945. Thomas Kerns McKnight and Trudith Kay McKnight. It seems doctors of the time weren't keen on alerting mothers about the possibility of having twins. On September 8, 1945, exactly two years after marrying Anna, Richard was discharged and heading to Ohio with his family!

On March 5, 1948, they added to the family again with a son, Charles Richard McKnight, Junior. Although not living in Indian Hill, Richard and Anna wanted their children to attend those schools and they made it happen. Meanwhile, Richard taught for the Milford School System. Anna was the initial pianist at the Madeira Church of Christ in the house church and continued doing so into the new sanctuary.



Thomas, Rick, and Trudy
about 1950

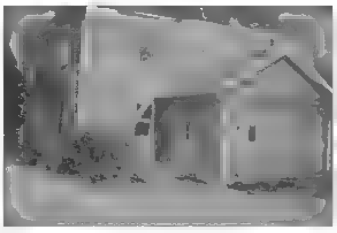
Charles and Anna McKnight

When the kids graduated from school and moved on to their own careers, Charles and Anna made a move to Memphis' Madeira Church of Christ lost these dedicated and faithful members' But they will return'

Let's not forget about the world outside the church Two months after the church dedicated the new sanctuary, in November 1960, John F Kennedy was elected president He was a Catholic, giving many citizens a concern about the Pope's involvement in decisions for the country The country was entering a decade unlike anything it experienced before' Music, morals, and media were changing enormously'

This photo was taken in May of 1961 This is P A Willis in his new office within the new sanctuary building. He's motivated a group of people to build a community of believers and now it was time to move on to another challenge just like Apostle Paul He was off to find some people needing to be motivated and build a community of believers'

Another change on the E Galbraith land was the dismantling of the old farmhouse in 1961 It had served its purpose and now made way for parking vehicles of people coming to the church after receiving a personal invitation from a member Personal evangelism continues to be the growth strategy of Madeira Church of Christ'



The Changing of the Guard!

Pear. Willis had shepherded the church for 4 years, succeeding in establishing a thriving congregation with God's guidance As was typical, Pearl moved on to another challenge in June 1961, like the Apostle Paul often did moving from town to town But times for Americans were difficult with the Bay of Pigs invasion happening earlier in April

The church sign in the 1961 Madeira High School Yearbook, showed there is no minister Pearl Willis was leaving and a new minister had not yet been called to serve.

By mid summer, a wonderful minister was found and hired His name was James Walker and he would start in August 1961

James and Edna Walker Their journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ.

James Edwin Walker was born October 19, 1926, to Errett D and Mabel Walker Errett was a house painter in the Columbus, Ohio area James early on knew he wanted to be a minister Maybe this was because his grandfather, W R Walker was the minister who presided over the marriage of James' parents His uncle Barclay was a minister in the Church of Christ faith, too In addition, his older brother William was intending to be a minister as well! Money for college was always an issue for William and James to complete a degree William started at CBS in 1942-3 as a freshman and completed in 4 years

But James had to delay his entry into fulltime college work. At the age of 18 he was taking a few courses at Capital University's seminary (in Columbus) for his requirements at Cincinnati Bible Seminary (CBS) Still, as with Pearl Willis, ministry students could find work as pastors at many small churches throughout the Midwest. James and Edna married on May 22, 1949 in Columbus adding to the money tightness

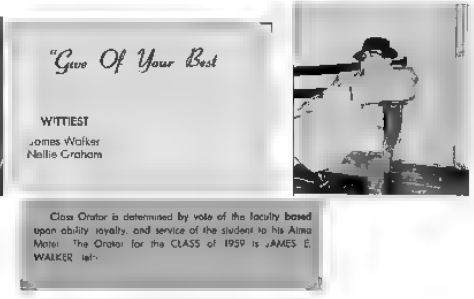
James was the minister at the Church of Christ in Pomeroy, Ohio when his first child arrived, Steven Dale Walker on April 2, 1950 Shortly after, a daughter was born on March 27, 1951 named Kathryn Sue Walker

Still, James was determined to complete his education and learning more of God's purpose for him. He restarted his studies at Cincinnati Bible Seminary (CBS) with the support of his new ministry at Miamitown Church of Christ (northwest of Cincinnati) and by Utica Church of Christ During the 1955-56 school year, Pearl Willis was part of the graduate department Small world, maybe they met!

The picture below left is from the 1956 CBS Yearbook (2nd from the right, 3rd row). The picture below right, shows James delivering a message from the pulpit, CBS Chapel, 1958

JAMES WALKER

His senior year of 1959 was a recognition of his hard work and personality talents He was witty, class orator and



Class Orator is determined by vote of the faculty based upon ability, loyalty, and service of the student to his Alma Mater. The Orator for the CLASS of 1959 is JAMES E. WALKER left.

JAMES E. WALKER, A.B.
"Well liked by all."
Capitol University; W.M.V. 2, 3, 4; Philanthropian, 2, 3, 4; School paper 1; Bible drama, 1.

This is his senior picture and you can see the many activities at CBS he was involved with (W M V is World Missions Volunteer)

After completing his degree, he continued serving Miamitown Church of Christ until 1961. Here you see the newspaper announcement of his arrival at Madeira Church of Christ

His first Sunday service was August 13, 1961 and the family of four closed on their Jetrive Lane home, September 20

The Walkers have arrived in Madeira!

REV. JAMES WALKER IS NEW PASTOR FOR MADEIRA CHURCH

Rev. James E. Walker began his ministry with the Madeira Church of Christ on Sunday, August 13.

Rev. Walker attended Capital university in Columbus, O. and graduated from the Cincinnati Bible Seminary where he was a member of the Delta Alpha Tau honor society. Rev. Walker's articles and lessons have appeared in several Standard Publishing co. materials for the church and Bible school.

The Walkers and their two children will be living at 7086 Jeffrey Way, Madeira. Before coming to Madeira, Rev. Walker had a 4½ year ministry with the Miamitown Church of Christ.

Rev. James E. Walker

But the early years of the 1960s affected the church, with the baby boomers in society promoting the 'Free Love' revolution. You know, those babies born after WW II! Also, there were fears the newly elected President Kennedy might bring the Pope into the forefront of American politics. Many churches began moving from a training vision for evangelism towards wanting a withdrawal from the outside world. They began to look inward, "to grow oneself spiritually or how can I be a better Christian" became the mantra. Then in October 1962, the Cuban missile crisis happens, giving fearful thoughts of a nuclear war

If this wasn't enough for James to contend with, remember he was following the founding minister. Ugh! Following Pearl Willis was like Timothy following the Apostle Paul. The congregation had high expectations. James Walker was a knowledgeable and effective preacher able to grow the congregation. And he did grow the congregation. Still, he wasn't Pearl! Many were sad, including myself, to see the personable James leave in March 1963 to another church wanting to grow. He continued to keep his home in Madeira until 1973.

James did begin encouraging the youth to attend Camp Christian. I remember attending the camp and actually enjoying it. There was a lake and many different activities with devotion each evening. I learned the song "FIRE, FIRE, FIRE." Yes, it wasn't a gospel song. They had a bunkhouse for 'boys only' with no air conditioning. Below, you can see the many screened windows the bunkhouse had. When we sang the song about the Chicago fire caused by Old Lady Leary's cow, it was loud enough to be heard in the girls' bunkhouse and the camp staff's quarters.

Camp Christian Bunkhouse

On the last night at the camp, there would be a lakeside service where we sat facing the lake. After a message encouraging kids to come forward and give a confession of faith, a boat would float across the lake with a brightly lit large cross. Very moving to me and many came forward.

Rose Siegel holding Jennifer in December 1962 at the Boettcher's house on lower Euclid Avenue in Madeira.

Notice the Aluminum tree that was all the rage back then and the Black White TV. My mom even had a color wheel shining on the tree to make it change colors (Red, Blue, Green, and Yellow, I think.) This was needed because you couldn't put Christmas lights on this tree very easily.

Rosella 'Rose' Siegel Her journey bringing her to Madeira Church of Christ

On August 10, 1910 in Cincinnati, Rosella Siegel was born to Ella and Frank Siegel. Frank was a millwright in a metal fabrication shop. In 1920, the family lived on Ward Street just a few blocks from Madisonville Christian Church. The house included Frank's parents, a sister, his wife, Rosella and a son, Frank Edward, born in 1912. Very crowded.

Ella passed away in December 1918 and Frank remarried in 1920 to Eleanor White. As more children (four) are born into the household, money got tight when the depression hit home. After finishing the 10th grade, Rosella began doing laundry for a wealthy family to bring in money. As dad continued in the tool and dye work, Rosella tried her hand at assembly work when the second world war started.

Eventually, Rose (ED as I called her), rented the upstairs of a home on Prentice Street, again a few blocks from Madisonville Christian Church where she attended. You might remember the church was on the corner of Prentice and Ward. She had now moved into doing the billing for a paper company. She shares the apartment with an older woman whom she knew earlier from her assembly work at the printing card company.

Rose bought her first home at 4535 Whetsel Avenue, still in the Madisonville area. The two-story home had 2 bedrooms and was built in 1890. When they began Madeira Church of Christ, Rose was an early member to promote its loving environment.

The search for a new minister began immediately in March 1963 after James Walker turned in his resignation. By June, a candidate was hired by the name of **Louis Lowery**. He came to the ministry late in life but was an effective evangelist.

Louis and Lois Lowery: Their journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ

Louis Eugene Lowery was born April 29, 1923 in Columbus, Ohio to Louis R. and Audrey M. Lowery. Louis was the oldest of four. His father was a salesman for a wholesale oil company. Lois Jean Park was born on January 26, 1923 to Edward and Mamie Park in Columbus, Ohio.

Lois and Louis attended West High School in Columbus where they became sweethearts in their freshman year.

In 1941 after graduating high school, Louis was living at the Miami Resident Center of the NYA in Dayton, Ohio.

The National Youth Administration (NYA) was another depression era program to provide support to unemployed youth. Other programs like the WPA were for unemployed adults. The CCC was a 6-month, young adult, manual labor program to help send home money to families on relief. The NYA program was to teach a trade through actual work with a paid wage. Much of the training done for the boys of the Dayton NYA was at the Fairfield Air Depot, working on 'plane repair-related' skills with the funding coming from the Defense Department when the war erupted.

Not long after graduation, they married on October 3, 1942 at the Warren Avenue Church of the Nazarene

For support, Louis worked as a mechanic and Lois was a seamstress.

But the war was calling Louis to serve and he joined the Navy on February 9, 1943

Louis would travel home whenever he was on leave. He was especially happy when on one leave, daughter Carole Jeanne Lowery was born on January 25 1945 Five months later in June, he was discharged and ready to restart civilian life (No, Lois was not in the 'Waves,' she just liked dressing up 'Navy' like Hubby)

The family grew again with a son born June 4, 1949 and named David Eugene Lowery

By 1950, both Louis and his dad were electricians Dad worked for a government contractor at the base but Louis worked directly for Wright Airfield Dad and son lived just two doors apart from each other on Vandergrift Doolittle Drive This was a housing neighborhood for workers at the Wright Airfield nearby

Curiously, the township of this area was called 'Mad River'

Their son, David, passed away at the age of 9 in September 1958 He was riding his bike to church and died instantly when hit by a car Maybe this led Louis to answer a calling to ministry! Within a year, he made a life changing career decision!

In September 1959, Louis enrolled in the Cincinnati Bible Seminary studying to be a minister He graduated in 1963 and completed a graduate degree in 1964

During his seminary years, he was the associate minister at Northern Hills Church of Christ Lois Jean went to work while her husband worked on his Doctorate in Theology She termed her time at being the bread winner as earning her "Ph T" degree - Putting hubby Through

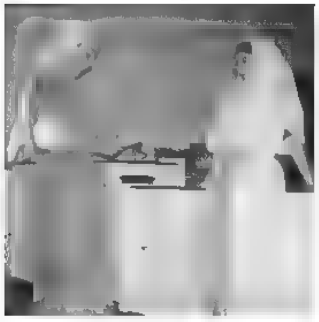
In September 1963 following Seminary, Louis began as fulltime senior minister at Madeira Church of Christ

They quickly added to the congregation with the birth of a daughter, Lisa Kathleen Lowery on January 28, 1964.

Here is a family photo with (L R) Lois, Louis, Lisa, and Carole the Lowerys in front of Madeira Church.

Mrs Lowery was an accomplished organist and accompanied the congregation in the singing of hymns during church services. Occasionally there would be a children time in front of the congregation where Louis would tell a Bible story. During this, Lois would create chalk drawings to help tell the story as Louis talked. It was beautiful to watch them working together, telling a story from the Bible.

In November 1963, the President was assassinated. Everyone mourned this loss.



Here is a picture where the youth is practicing for a Christmas play. Yes, it is I, Mike Boettcher as Joseph!

The play was done yearly all through the time the Lowerys were at Madeira. After the performance on a Sunday evening, the kids were given a paper bag with an orange or apple, hard candy (unwrapped) and some walnuts.

Merry Christmas!

On February 7, 1964, Beatlemania arrived as "I want to hold your hand" hits number 1! The foursome arrived in American and on February 9th, appeared on the Ed Sullivan show. Summer of 1964 was before I started my freshman year in high school. The youth were to conduct the church service (except for praying at the communion table) that summer. The youth did distribute the communion trays around to the congregation.

Also, I gave a short message from the pulpit. Don't remember what I said but it was scary standing up behind a big pulpit and looking at all those parents I knew! I do remember no one encouraging me to go into the ministry!

March 1967, (L-R) Don and Eva Bright, Louis and Jean Lowery with Lisa Lowery (lap), Joe and Ruby Garwood, Greg Beckett with his mom, Betty, sitting in the chair. Cecil Beckett was taking the picture.

Donald and Eva Bright: Their journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ

I (*Mike*) don't know much about the Brights. I do remember Eva being the volunteer church secretary because we didn't have the funds to pay anyone. Still., they were a wonderful, friendly couple. Donald Bright was in the Navy just after WW II ended and was involved in the Naval air traffic control operations which was very new at the time. How he and Eva met, I do not know. But both were born in the Village of Seaman, which was in Adams County, Ohio. Surely, their families knew one another in such a small town. They were married on June 28, 1951.

Now Eva's maiden name was Troutman. She was the daughter of Delbert and Garnet Troutman. She had a brother named Edward who married Evelyn Holton on September 15, 1952. Now this couple were also early members of Madeira Church of Christ along with Don and Eva Bright. I do not know who came to the church first but it definitely gets personal when families are members at the same church. But the family relationships in the church doesn't stop here.

Edward and Evelyn had a daughter named Ellen born on November 23, 1958. While attending Madeira Church of Christ, including the youth program, she meets her future husband, Kenneth Read. You will learn their story later in the book.

But back to Don and Eva. I liked Pearl Willis' preaching because he always seemed to have a "people story" in it, related to his message. Don like to tell stories as well and was very good at it. I remember a little something about a story he called 'Bright Eyes." The most I recall is, it was about overcoming obstacles with a happy ending. Eva was the organized one! She kept the preachers on their toes and the bulletin always looked nice.

I wish I knew more about the Troutmans. I remember they were always around the church whenever there was something to be done like cleaning or setting up for a special service. Nice people who would help you with most anything! Definitely examples of a Christian witnessing their faith! Also, they were part of the Madisonville crowd moving to that new startup church in Madeira.

Cecil T and Betty M Beckett: Their journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ.

Cecil E. and Mary L. Beckett rented a house in Lewis County, Kentucky where he worked the soil for a living. On February 18, 1928, their first child arrived, a son, naming him Cecil Thomas Beckett. By 1935, the Beckett family moved to Fleming County, again renting a farm to grow crops.

In later years, another son and a daughter were born but both died in infancy from pneumonia. This left Cecil the only child growing up in the Beckett household. But, when Cecil was 14, the parents did have another son named Steven Maurice Beckett, born August 14, 1942. Cecil graduated high school and attended the University of Kentucky in Lexington, studying engineering. He finished his degree in 1950. Cecil had enlisted in the Air Force ROTC on February 25, 1950 while a student at the college, just before graduating.

Betty Mae Burke was born to Marvin J. and Maymie D. Burke on November 18, 1931, in Fleming County, Kentucky. Marvin also tilled the soil to make a living during these economically depressed times. The family had moved into Mason County Kentucky where Betty finished school. Betty graduated from Mays Lick High School in 1950.

There was a local drugstore in Flemingsburg with a food counter and a Wurlitzer jukebox. Kids gathered there for a burger, fries and listening or dancing to music. This is where Betty met up with a much older college boy named Cecil Beckett on a blind date. He took her to a movie and they were a match made in heaven! They were married on October 15, 1950 at the parsonage of the Flemingsburg church. It was a Sunday.

Here's their 'Wedding' picture taken in front of Cecil's parents' house on Fox Creek Road in Mt Carmel, Kentucky.

Today this picture is still hanging on the wall in the living room of their house!

Starting a family, Cecil and Betty were soon blessed with a beautiful girl they named Belinda on June 1, 1951. Shortly later, Cecil was discharged from the Air Force on April 24, 1953.

Now Cecil was free to explore engineering opportunities in the private sector! And the family continued to grow with a son arriving on January 23, 1955, named Gregory T. Beckett.

About mid-1956, the Becketts moved to Florida so Cecil could work for Kett Technical Center, an engineering company. The company served mostly the automotive industry. But by early 1959, the Becketts were back in Ohio. They bought a house on Donna Lane in Deer Park, a community in Sycamore Township just west of Madeira. Cecil continued pursuing various engineering jobs while Betty chased antiques!

It was their daughter Belinda who got her parents to visit Madeira Church of Christ They were attending Mt Healthy Christian Church But Be..nda wanted to go Madeira for their exciting youth group Lou.s Lowery was the minister at the time they began attending in 1966 when Belinda was 15 After joining Madeira Church, Cecil's strong fa.th was recognized and he was quickly chosen to be a deacon

In other 'church family' connections, Betty filled in at Fry Brothers for Elenora McElfresh, another member of the church This was the same company Mollie Boettcher worked before going into the Navy In October 1967, the Lowery's left their daughter Lisa with the Becketts, when they went on a 25th wedding anniversary trip out of town. The Beckett's house was always a specia. place at Christmas Betty places a Christmas tree in every room, yes, even the bathroom

My sister, Sylvia Boettcher, graduated Madeira High in spring of 1967 John Doyle, church treasurer and Elder, gave Sylivia s $2 bill for her graduation in 1967 John Doyle was a fascinating person He was as much a grandfatherly type to us k.ds as was Earl Franklin, mentioned earlier He always had a smile for everybody and was well liked. The chi.dren especial.y enjoyed his friendl.ness Being a railroad man, he would often entertain the kids (like me) with verbal train sounds and its steam whistle. When going to my grandparent's house we would pass by the Doyle home making happy about the times we visited there. I graduated a year after Sylvia but didn't get a $2 bil. from John He liked her more, I guess!

John Augustus and Lena Vivian Doyle: Their journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ

John Augustus Doyle was born to James T and Dollie Doyle on March 25, 1901 in Vanceburg, Kentucky His father was a farmer and two daughters, Lou.se (1903) and El.en (1905), were born after John When John was 17, his father contracted Typhoid Fever and suffered with it for two weeks before dying on September 24, 1918 He had just registered for the draft on September 11th, three days before his 42nd birthday

It was now up to the kids to support their mother The farm was too much for the young kids to manage So, upriver they went with mom in tow to the big city of Portsmouth. Ohio Here they found jobs

John got work running a stenograph machine at 18, Louise worked as an accountant at 16, while Ellen at 15 could only find work in a shoe factory Then another loss when Louise passed away on October 21, 1921 She was buried in the cemetery of Fairmount Christian Church where they attended services

Now it was John and Ellen who had to look after their mother By 1922, John was working as a bookkeeper Still, Dol.ie was making a home for them at 1816 Grandview Avenue which they had bought Soon El.en married John Thomson, a teacher, in March of 1922 and moved to Florida Yet, Ellen divorced in 1928 and returned home to be with the family

Meanwhile, in the same year of 1901, Lena Vivian Goodrich was born to Edward and Bertie Goodrich on June 20th They lived in Hamden, Ohio and her father also worked at farming She was the oldest of five children I have not learned how she and John met God brought them together and they married on March 30, 1928 in Portsmouth

Soon, John found work as a mail clerk for the railroad on a train running from Cincinnati to Grafton, W Virginia They had moved to Cincinnati renting the top floor of a home on Hudson Avenue. Ellen and Dollie were there as well Ellen was working as a waitress in a confectionary The one floor they rented got crowded when Ruth Ellen Doyle arrived on January 11, 1930 John enlisted in the Army Reserves for some additional income on May 8, 1931 But the factor for moving to a bigger place was when a son, James Edward Doyle, was born on August 22, 1931

And move they did! They found a home on Edwards Road, just a few doors from its intersection with Madison Road Yes, the same Madison Road where others lived near as they made their way to Madisonville Christian Church This home was theirs and not rented John was making good money with the railroad And still the famu.y grew Robert Lee Doyle arrived as an early Christmas present on December 6th, 1936 How John had time for some college classes is amazing! But he always had a strong interest in history

Eventua.ly, the war drew John into 'active status' with the Army But John remained stateside and after the war, was eager to resume civilian life He continued to stay as an Army reservist They came to Madeira when purchas.ng a house at 8222 Camargo Rd The house was a Tudor styled home with a sloping drive They bought it on December 5, 1945 It was next door to a family called McKnight Remember them from earlier?

As members of Madisonville Christian, the Doyles were familiar with the startup of Madeira Church of Christ and Pearl Willis. They began as part of the group meeting in the Allman's home.

The church continued to grow and was needing more space for the youth. The design was completed and only funding was needed. By July 3, 1967, enough funds were committed to allow for a Ground Breaking Ceremony for a classroom wing! Below (L-R) is Minister Louis Lowery, Philip Perkins (youth representative), Orian McElfresh, and Robert Goforth.

It was quickly built and they began holding classes in January 1968. This addition allowed a place for the youth to 'do their thing'! The basement was fully finished so activities could be held in a large area indoors.

July 15, 1968, Perkins (Nancy, Peggy, Danny) Boettchers (Jenny, Norma, Sylvia, Ray) at Del Rex Motel in Poplar Bluff, Mo.
All were on way to Cherokee Village in Arkansas to check out vacation lots (Clarence is taking the picture)

July 1968. Golf has now overtaken the habit of fishing as a men's activity.

Ray Boettcher and Clarence Perkins golfing at Cherokee Village, Arkansas

In October 1968, the Lowerys have decided to move on to another church, Grape Grove Church of Christ near Jamestown, Ohio. Now if this church sounds familiar, **it is!** The connection is to Madeira Church's beginning! Pearl Willis, the founding preacher, was from Jamestown. Also, Susan (Ritenour) Babik and Anna (Ritenour) McKnight actual grew up attending the Grape Grove Church. God does move in mysterious ways! Again, the search is on for another minister. Until then, the youth minister, David Fretsy was called upon to deliver most of the Sunday messages.

Albert and Clydella Holzbauer: Their journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ.

Albert Henry Holzbauer was born on April 14, 1925 in Cheektowdaga, New York to George and Mary Holzbauer. Al was the eighth of nine children in a family living just east of Buffalo. His dad worked odd jobs in poultry and machine shops.

Al found work with American Airlines at the Buffalo Airport after graduating high school. But as for many young men of the time, the war interrupted life. By May 27, 1943, Al joins the Army. They trained him as a paratrooper for the 82nd Airborne Division. Al suffered some infections of the lung and the skin in early 1944. As the war came towards an end, he was discharged in October 31, 1945 (yes, Halloween) to restart his civilian career.

Al finally decides God does want him and begins his study at Cincinnati Bible Seminary (CBS) Also studying at the college was Clydella M Waters, who plans to be a teacher It was not long before Al enticed her into marrying him They went across the Ohio River to get married in Covington, Kentucky on May 15, 1946 Al and Clydella begins the family with a son, Dale, born May 21, 1947 They continue growing the family with Denny in 1948, Mary in 1949, James in 1950 and David in 1951 When did he have time for his Bible studies?

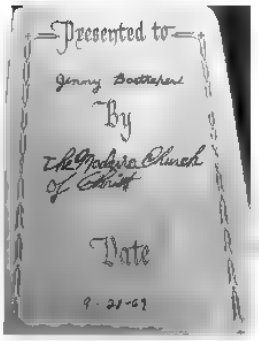
Graduated Cincinnati Bible Seminary in 1951, his Senior Picture

After Al graduates, his first church as senior minister is Elsmere Christian Church in Kentucky Still more kids arrived with Jenny in 1952, Debbie in 1954 and Tina in 1957 Wow, four boys and four girls, a full house of kids In 1959 he moves to a church in Waterloo, Indiana called Cedar Lake Church of Christ Here Al and the family stayed until 1968 when he is called to pastor Madeira Church of Christ beginning in January 1969

About this time is when I (Mike Boettcher) was emersed in college studies and a girl So, I didn't know Al very well I have learned from his student youth minister at Madeira, David Fiensy, a story about A. visiting members of the congregation in their home;

"I do remember Al Holzbauer well Going visiting with him was a hoot He would walk into a house and say "grandma, what do you have to eat?" He'd then go to their refrigerator and help himself Some of the older people loved it, others were kind of insulted I tried not to laugh during those calls I considered Al a helpful mentor " David A Fiensy, Ph D

During August, 1969, a group of church friends gathered to celebrate the birth of Kirk Wesley Perkins who was born in June He is the grandson of Clarence and Peggy Perkins Kirk's parents are Kenneth and Sherry Perkins In attendance were Earl and Nell Franklin in a picture on the next page Also, Ray and Norma (holding Kirk) Boettcher at the church family event as well



When someone was baptized at Madeira Church of Christ, they were given a Bible

This is the one given to my sister, Jennifer Boettcher, for her baptism on September 28, 1969, a Sunday

Also, it was the day before my 20th birthday (*Mike*)

Can you remember where you were at **7:05 on Saturday evening Aug. 9, 1969**?

St Gertrude's annual festival "Five minutes earlier," Mr Nolan said, 'the sun had been shining." But some streets were almost in ruins Streets hit hardest were in the areas of Dawson Road, Camargo Road, and Shawnee Run

The cross on the steeple of St Gertrude's was damaged by the tornado Remember the importance of a cross on a steeple!

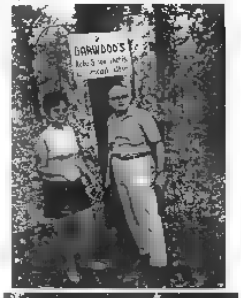
You also see the telephone pole on the street damaged as well

I (*Mike Boettcher*) remember this for two reasons One, my sister, Sylvia, had just gone out on our front porch to retrieve a folding chair as the wind seemed to be picking up outside When she began coming back in the front door, a split-second later, the top of our large cedar tree broke off depositing itself exactly where the folding chair had been Secondly, during the tornado event, mom and dad (Ray, Norma Boettcher) were visiting Joe and Ruby Garwood in their mobile home on Dawson Road A tree fell next to their place cutting the neighbors trailer about in half My parents said Joe's place barely shook at all and had no damage Everyone praised the Lord for His protective hands in both these events

Eventually, Al found a calling towards mentoring teens and young adults He left in June 1970 to pursued teaching in high school and became Director of Social Services in nearby Warren County Again, the search for a minister begins! Yet, the life of the church family goes onward

Sometime on a Sunday, during 1970, Perk and Peggy Perkins, Ray and Norma Boettcher with their children Sylvia and Jenny, visited Joe Garwood's church where he was the minister, Lebanon Church of Christ on North Cherry Street After the service, as the group was exiting the front doors, the church across the street was having a revival They invited the group to come attend the service which the group did

The church was so packed, the group had to be ushered upstairs to the balcony with added chairs set out for them Sylvia and Jenny were amazed! The church was predominately black, with the singing shaking the stain-glass windows and everyone dancing in the aisles A good time was had by all, including a group of Madeira folks!



July 1970, some Madeira church folks went buying vacation lots in Cherokee Village, Arkansas Garwood, Boettcher, Perkins, and Gross all purchased lots

You'll notice the Perkins are standing at the Boettcher's lot and the Boettchers are standing at the Perkin's lot

The city of Madeira nearly doubled in area with the 1970 annexation of the South Kenwood area of Columbia Township This year was a big year for the Madeira Church of Christ as well!

Sylvia Boettcher went with Belinda Beckett, to visit Cincinnati Bible Seminary in the fall of 1970 Belinda was a student and invited Sylvia to spend the weekend at the women's dorm Both had an enjoyable time and Sylvia appreciated the invitation Belinda was doing a little personal evangelism for her school!

Another young person doing some personal evangelism was Kevin Boys! Yes, the family's name was 'Boys' as it should be since there were five sons (Michael, Gary, Stephan, Kevin, and Brent) belonging to Clyde and Ruth. Clyde was often called 'Red' because of his very red hair! But it was Kevin who came up with the ideal of a "Monday Night Group" of young people meeting at his parent's house to talk about God stuff!

One of the attendees to Kevin's "Monday" gatherings was Ken Read. He had been going to Madeira Church of Christ riding with his grandmother, Virginia Nelson. His sister, Laurie also attended the church and the Monday group. Earlier in June of 1970, Ken had been baptized during the VBS program influenced by a visiting missionary, Cedric Green! Within the next two years, Kevin's group had grown to include as many as 40 young people, providing their own music, as well as leadership and curriculum. Ken Read began playing piano for the Sunday evening offertory in the fall of 1971. And of course, on his first performance, the tune he played was 'Put Your Hand in the Hand of the Man.' An easily recognizable tune by everyone as it was a popular song in 1971.

We will hear more about these young people later in the book but let's get back to who came to relieve David Fiensy of the Sunday morning sermon duties.

Gerald (Jerry) and Jean Lewis. Their journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ.

Gerald 'Jerry' was born on February 4, 1938 in Villa Grove, IL, to Jesse and Donna Lewis. His father hung wallpaper and painted for a living. Jerry was a brilliant student and a talented athlete in high school. Despite an opportunity to become a professional athlete, he chose to serve the Lord. Jerry attended nearby Lincoln Christian College graduating in 1960. On April 10, 1960, he married Jean Parrott.

Their first church took them to California where daughter, Dawn (1962) and son, Mark (1964) were born. Then to another church in Illinois where another daughter, Bethanie was born on September 15, 1970. Jerry and family were again on the move coming to Madeira Church of Christ in November 1970.

Jerry Lewis was the church's first minister who did not graduate from Cincinnati Bible Seminary! Still, Jerry was very personable and continued to grow the congregation!

Here is a picture of Jerry giving his son, Mark, a back ride around the living room.

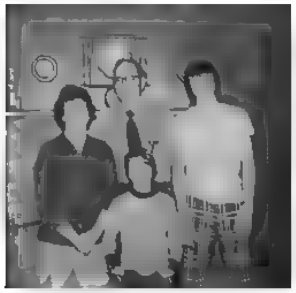
Another daughter arrived named Rebecca about 1971-2.

I (*Mike Boettcher*) didn't know Jerry very well as I had a family, was working and going to night school to finish my BS in Chemistry. I was moving to South Carolina by 1972 after getting my degree. Still, Sylvia Boettcher seemed to know him well. She described him as a kind, smiling minister with a funny joke ready at any time. A lot like Pearl Willis, the founding minister.

Jerry Lewis was very much a promoter of children and youth activities. He tapped Ken Read as a high schooler (1973-76) to teach the Sunday School class for junior high kids. This group included kids of many early church members such as Doug Lake, Barry Pettyjohn, David and Dale Troutman, Chester Cowgill, Rob Young, Ray Myers, and others.

When they erected a flagpole in front of the classroom wing in 1971, everyone was asked to bring a rock from the places they visited on vacation. And the rocks were piled high of various shapes, sizes, and colors. I think there is something in the Old Testament about stacking rocks near a river. Check out the book of Joshua. Those stones served as a memorial, a reminder to future generations of God's faithfulness for leading them to the Promised Land. I guess I'm trying to remind future generations about what these folks did at 7421 E. Galbraith Road in Madeira.

The above picture was a Christmas dinner at the Gross' house in 1970. Peggy Perkins with Louis "Smoke" and Mary Gross. Norma was off to the far right as Ray Boettcher took the picture. Clarence Perkins was off camera watching the action. Breaking bread was a favorite way of getting together! It's a close personal event!



Goforths: Clella, Bob, Robbie, and Randy in front. Picture taken about 1971 at their house on Juler in Madeira.

Robert (Bob) and Clella Goforth: Their journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ.

Robert Goforth was born in Manchester, Kentucky on July 12, 1930 making him nine years younger than my dad, Ray Boettcher. His parents were Charlie and Cora Goforth. He told me he had a twin brother named Ben. Clella Goforth was born in Krypton, Kentucky on October 26, 1931, again much younger than my mom, Norma Boettcher. Her parents were Kelly and Ella Mae Pennington. Clella did attend the Cincinnati Bible Seminary for some classes. Seems to be the place to find a date with a God-fearing guy and future husband.

They were married August 28, 1951 in Manchester, Kentucky. Robert was in the Korean War with the Air Force. Before joining, he attended the University of Cincinnati. After the war, he found his way to the Stolle Company. Interestingly, this company made the machines forming aluminum cans and Robert was in sales for these machines. He had the gift of being liked by all who met him. He always seemed to like anyone he met. Yes, I did like him as well. A truly nice guy who witnessed his Christianity!

The Goforths bought a house at 7431 Juler Avenue on August 27, 1958 when they were transferred from Louisiana. This street intersected with Dee Street where the Perkins and Gross families lived. They had two boys, John Randall (called Randy) and Robert (called Robbie). Clella was involved in the church children's programs and the kid's Sunday School. She loved working with kids and I, Mike, certainly felt her love in class.

Clella Goforth held Sylvia Boettcher's wedding shower at her house with Mrs. Jean Lewis (pastor's wife), Maxine Allman & Ruby Garwood to help. These same ladies served the refreshments at Sylvia's wedding reception. Jenny was also at the shower with Robby Goforth their son. I, Mike, remember the house was an older home (built in 1926) and had a nice large porch on the front for sitting. They sold the house on August 1, 1973 when he was transferred to the company headquarters in Sidney, Ohio. This is when Alcoa acquired the Stolle Corporation. They were greatly missed by the church family but kept in touch with several members like the Perkins.

The youth attendance began to grow faster than adult membership The young adults who were college age also began meeting a couple times a week, both in Sunday School and on Wednesday nights It was the focus for Jerry Lewis, his personal mission to grow future Christian leaders

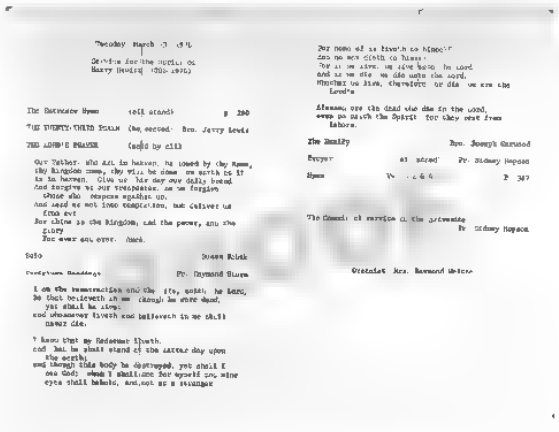
The youth group had a choir performing musicals around the region each year It started around 1973, when Kevin Boys put together a group to pantomime "Jesus Christ Superstar" while the recording was played Then it was Donna Weitzel directing the group to perform "Natural High," "Show Me Jesus," "The Witness," and then "The Word," an origina. musical written by Ken Read But Jerry realized, Ken had more to give and this was using more of his musical talent

In 1975, when he was 17, Ken wrote his musical "The Word" based on the gospel of John Donna Weitzel encouraged him and gave him the freedom to direct and produce the musical for others. There were about 25 singers and 8 instrumental.sts, and the production was presented 3 or 4 times around the greater Cincinnati area The next year, in 1976, Billie Lake stepped down as director for the adult choir on Sunday mornings Ken, despite his young age, was invited to fill the role He directed the choir until he and Ellen moved away in 1982

Speaking of Ellen and those musicals, Ellen Troutman caught Ken's attention when she sang in the youth choir performing those specials Ken, marked the day, June 23, 1974, as the beginning of his dating Ellen, a very important day Finally, after more than six years of being best friends and a dating couple. they married at Madeira Church of Christ on March 21, 1981 Now back to other church events

March 23, 1976 Harry Hewitt, the father of Norma Boettcher, was attending Madeira Church when he passed away He began attending because Madisonville Church was in the process of closing Brother Jerry Lewis lead the service and Susan Babik sang a wonderful solo Friar Sidney Hopson was the minister at Ho.y Trinity Church where Harry was earlier the custod.an and Norma the church secretary Mrs Donna Weitzel played the organ while a family friend, Brother Joe Garwood gave a homily The entrance song on page 290 was 'Get God's Sunshine.'

My sister Sylvia (nee Boettcher) Schwartz remembers attending. Husband Don, Sylvia, and their daughter Becky were there Sylvia was pregnant with son, Kevin, and they sat with her cousin Tim Montgomery Sylvia thought Tim was going to speak about Harry Hewitt because he got up to leave out of the pew When he did, he tripped on the straps of Sylvia's purse sitting on the floor making a small commotion Tim did say a few words about his grandfather



Tuesday March 23 (?)

Service for the burial of
Harry Hewitt (1901-1976)

The Entrance Hymn (all stand) p 290

THE TWENTY-THIRD PSALM (be seated) Rev. Jerry Lewis

THE LORD'S PRAYER (said by all)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it
is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive
those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the
glory
For ever and ever. Amen.

Solo Susan Babik

Scripture Readings Fr. Raymond Sturm

I am the resurrection and the life, saith he Lord,
he that believeth in me (though) he were dead,
yet shall he live;
and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall
never die.

I know that my Redeemer liveth
and that he shall stand at the latter day upon
the earth;
and though this body be destroyed, yet shall I
see God; whom I shall see for myself and mine
eyes shall behold, and not as a stranger

For none of us liveth to himself
and no man dieth to himself.
For if we live, we live unto the Lord
and if we die, we die unto the Lord.
Whether we live, therefore or die we are the
Lord's

Forasmuch as the dead die in the Lord,
even so saith the Spirit for they rest from
labors.

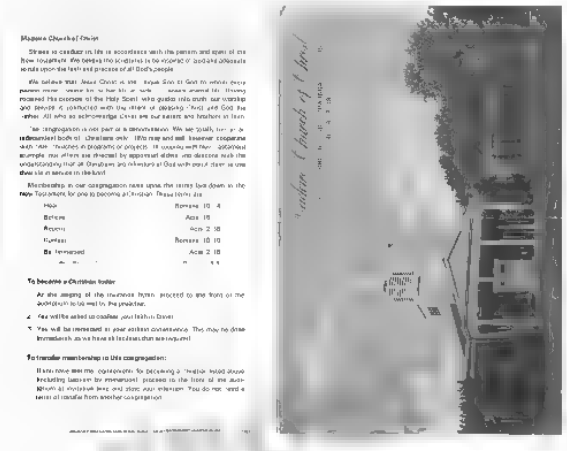
The Homily Rev. Joseph Garwood

Prayer at graveside Fr. Sidney Hopson

Hymn Vs . & 4 P 367

The Commital service at the graveside
Fr Sidney Hopson

Organist Mrs. Raymond Weitzel



Jerry's time at Madeira was marked by many weddings. The children of the people who started Madeira Church where now of age and getting started on their own families

Jerry stayed until September 1976, the year of the country's Bicentennial

At the Madeira courthouse (a former church building renovated into courts, jails, and a sheriff's office), for the Bicentennial, there was placed out front, a duplicate Liberty Bell Around it were pavers engraved with many of town's citizens' names Ten years earlier I was a 'temporary' juvenile resident of the basement jail Just a few hours but then that's another story for another time!

And the Children Marry

Is there any relationship more personal than a marriage?

Trudy McKnight (daughter of Charles and Anna McKnight) and E. Arlin Bolejack, Jr married at Madeira Church of Christ on June 24 1966

Fascinating Fact Arlin was in training to be a minister, his father was a well know minister and there were several other ministers in attendance' But Louis Lowery conducted the service because the other ministers did not have a ministerial license for Ohio Also, her mother Anna, a wonderful seamstress, made the wedding dress Trudy met Arlin at Cincinnati Bible Seminary'

Judith (Brackenridge) and Ken Franklin (son of Earl and Nell Franklin) got married at Madeira Church of Christ on June 20, 1968 by the Minister Louis Lowery

They are opening wedding gifts in the basement of the new classroom wing

May 15, 1970 Mike Boettcher had a hurry-up wedding at Norwood Christian Church but the reception was held at the Boettcher's house, 6711 Euclid Avenue

Here Earl Franklin is with the groom s mother, Norma in her finished basement

Belinda Beckett was attending CBS and dating a guy who was part of the Radio Club but he was a 'jerk.' David Hubert also was interested in Belinda but respectful of her dating situation. Eventually Belinda realized her mistake and dropped 'the jerk,' making it known she was available. When she said she was interested in dating someone, David realized it was his opportunity. The CBS girls were all required to be in their dorms during the evening but for one exception, revival events' So, David asked Belinda out to a revival and their relationship took off from there.

David married Belinda in May 15, 1971 at Madeira Church of Christ by David Friensy who was Hubert's close friend and the youth minister at Madeira Church of Christ from 1969-72 (beginning under Al Holzbauer, then with Jerry Lewis). Pastor Lewis assisted in the wedding service.

Fascinating Fact: Anna McKnight sewed Belinda's Wedding dress. Anna also did her daughter Trudy's wedding dress (earlier in this section) and did a "Snow-White" dress for Gary Cowgill's young daughter! Anna was a wonderful seamstress!

Cecil Becket walking his daughter, Belinda, down the aisle

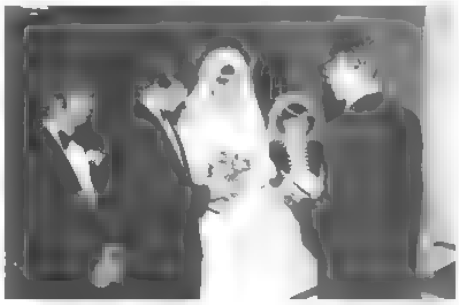
Looking down from the balcony during the Beckett - Hubert wedding, May 15, 1971. The baptistry is behind the curtains under the cross

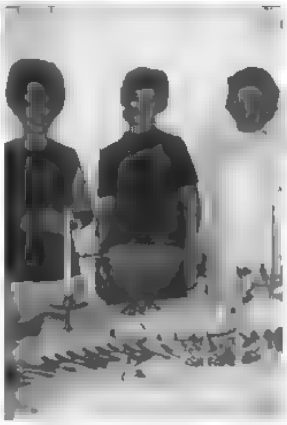
David Hubert kissing his new wife, Belinda, with Jerry Lewis, Greg Beckett watching on the right

On April 8, 1972, Jerry Lewis married Gary Allman and Rebecca Lynn Stevens. I didn't get photos but I did want to include their wedding event!

Jerry Lewis married Sylvia Boettcher and Don Schwartz on Nov 18, 1972, Sylvia is being walked down the aisle by her dad, Ray Boettcher

Picture on next page Best man Doug Silver, Groom Donald Schwartz, Bride Sylvia (nee Boettcher) Schwartz, Bridesmaid Vicki Pickelheimer, Pastor Jerry Lewis. The Pastor reminded Don during rehearsal, "Remember to look at Sylvia, not me, when saying your vows. You are marrying her, not me!"





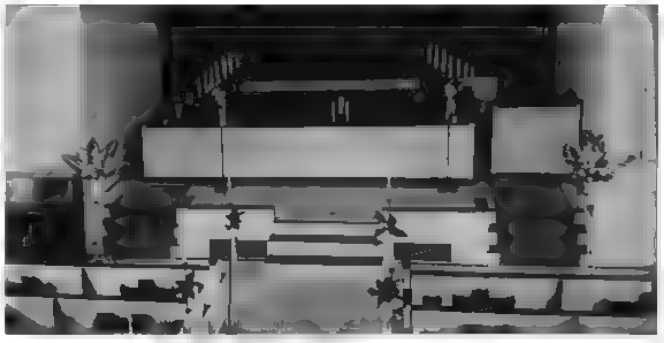
Sylvia's wedding reception, in the church basement under the classroom wing

(L R) Ruby (Joe's 1st wife) Garwood, Mrs Jerry (Jean) Lewis (pastor's wife), Maxine Allman

Sylvia's sister Jennifer, was happy to have gotten out of the heels and into her gym shoes!

Sylvia Schwartz throwing the bouquet

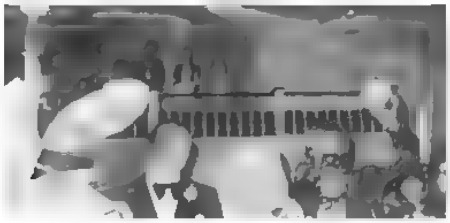
Jerry Lewis married Darla Gay Allman to Chris Thomas Vogelpohl at Madeira Church of Christ on Sept 14, 1974 Sharon L Allman was maid of honor A.so, Mrs Gary (Rebecca) Allman was the bride's wedding attendant Darla's brother Gary served as usher for the wedding. Darla and Chris are graduates of Ohio State University



Sanctuary set up for Darla's wedding!

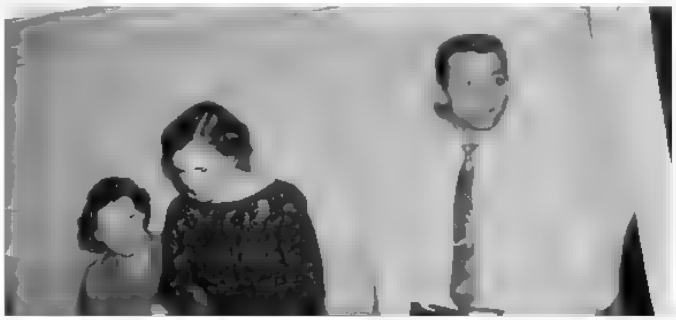
Darla and dad coming down the steps from the balcony ready to enter the sanctuary He looks happy and she looks nervous, typical wedding!

Darla's wedding with her dad entering, Doyle Sevier, Bob Goforth are watching the excitement I will give more on these two gentlemen at the beginning of the next section



And the ever present photographer! Notice the overflow crowd in the balcony!

Bob & Maxine Allman with Darla and Chris Vogelpohl



Here's a picture of the people serving refreshments at the Vogelpohl's wedding. (L-R) First, Mable Cowgill, Clara Sevier and no, it's not Frankie Avalon, heartthrob singer of the 1950s and 60s, but the youth minister Ron Cataldo!

Donald Skidmore and his new wife, Alice Renee (daughter of Roy and Leona Myers) Skidmore are cutting their wedding cake on March 10, 1976

Fascinating Fact They got married on a Wednesday at Madeira Church of Christ in the basement of the church They were married by Renee's Uncle Clyde Waites (mother's brother) He was an ordained preacher with the Church of the Nazarene I told you to remember Clyde Waites!

Nancy Perkins (daughter of Clarence and Peggy Perkins) married Rick Niefie.d at Madeira Church of Christ on March 26, 1977

Joe Garwood officiated, Ken Read (youth music director top right) assisted on March 26, 1977 Of course, Nancy and Rick are in the back row

Next down is Donna (nee Gross) Strahm as maid of honor and Rick s older brother Steve Niefield as best man

Then in the front is good friend Bob Durbrow, Nancy's nephew Kirk and then Rick's younger brother Denny Niefield Bob and Denny were ushers and Kirk was ring bearer

Rick N.efield is holding Ken Perkins' (Nancy's brother) 2nd child Kelly as Nancy looks on, while Ken (back right) is holding his 3rd child, Shannon March 26, 1977

In the picture front is Donna's (nee Gross) husband, Richard Strahm The back row is maybe Susan Babik with her back to the camera Going right then is Leona Myers and Lena Doyle and Jerry Babik on the far right

Lora (nee Gross) Jermer with her daughter Mel.nda at Nancy's wedding March 26, 1977

Elenora McElfresh is serving the wedding cake for Nancy Perkins' wedding, March 26, 1977

The Perkins had close friends among their 'church family' and many were there to help with the reception and wedding activities

Nancy's wedding reception, March 26, 1977 in the basement of the church's classroom wing.

Some traveled into town just for the occasion. Pictured (L-R) Lena Doyle, Robert Goforth (who traveled down from Sidney, Ohio) and Jerry Babik!

Bob and Maxine Allman attending Nancy's wedding on March 26, 1977

Also, seated behind them is John Doyle with glasses

Norma Boettcher (left) and Mary Gross (right) serving refreshments at Nancy's wedding reception. Seems like everyone pitched for this occasion!

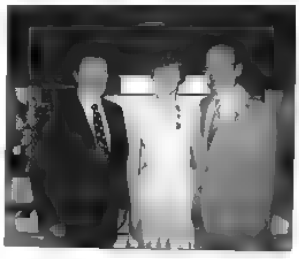
Gary Cowgill and Jennifer Griffith married on March 17, 1978 Yes, this is St Patrick's Day

Jennifer Griffith in her wedding gown (L) Tom Mullens, youth minister, performed the wedding ceremony

Gary and the new Mrs. Gary Cowgill exiting the ceremony (L) Lois Reynolds (step mom), Fred Griffith, Jennifer, and Gary Cowgill, then Tom and Mable Cowgill Not pictured here is his 'Best Man' Daniel Perkins, son of Clarence and Peggy' Sister-in-law, Cynthia Griffith, was the Maid of Honor

Fascinating Fact Gary's birthday is Halloween, Jennifer's is December 26 and her father's is April Fool's Day' Jennifer began attending Madeira Church of Christ when her parents moved to Ohio from W Va So, marrying on St. Patrick's was expected'

Grandfather Benjamin Myers with Benny and Linda at their wedding on Dec 9, 1978 On right, Lee Mason, Uncle Clyde Waites (Leona's brother) Linda, Benny, Roy, and Leona Myers



Kenneth Franklin and Barbara Meiser married on July 25, 1981 performed by Dr Lee Mason

The picture is taken in front of the podium in the original sanctuary

Jenny's maids of honor for her wedding on October 2, 1982

(L R up the stairs) Jenny, Patty Pierce, Nancy Estill, Debbie Tighe

These are the steps leading up to the balcony of the sanctuary

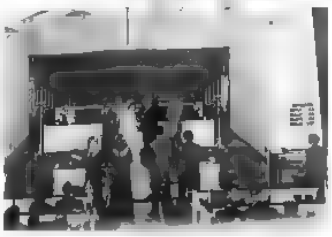
Fascinating Fact: Dr. Lee Mason was against having Jenny and Steve's wedding being officiated by a Catholic Priest, even if he was a close, personal friend of the couple! This led to adding another family friend, Brother Joe Garwood, minister in the 'Church of Christ' faith, to officiate! Now the wedding could be held in the church Jenny grew up attending and whose parents (Boettchers) were members from the beginning at Madeira Church of Christ

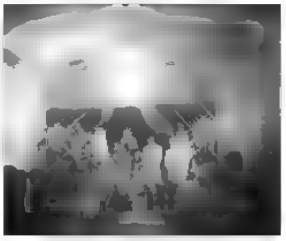
Jenny (nee Boettcher) and Steve Theobald Wedding, Oct 2, 1982

Here we have the entrance with Jennifer's dad, Ray Boettcher

To the right, you can see Vern Garwood (Joe Garwood's 2nd wife) and Chester Cowgill friend of the family

Here, from the balcony, you see both Brother Joe Garwood (L) and Brother Joel Stern (R), the Priest, officiating the ceremony together





Jennifer and Steve Exchanging rings (L) and Jenny and Steve (hidden beside Jenny) lighting their unity candle (R)

Here are the proud parents with the newlyweds' Raymond Boettcher, Jennifer and Steve Theobald, and Norma Boettcher (L R)

Wedding party (L -R) Jim Gant, Nancy Estill, Jennifer & Steve Theobald, Patty Pierce, Mark Theobald, seated Debbie Tighe, Bob Keefe

Tim, Marilyn, & Chip, The Abbotts at Tim's wedding August 2, 1986, Madeira Church of Christ, in the new sanctuary built in 1983

Remember the question I asked at the beginning of this section on weddings? Is there any relationship more personal than a marriage?

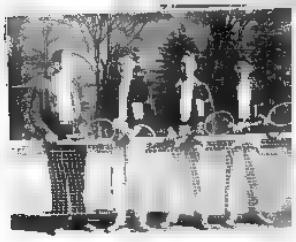
The answer is YES! Your relationship with Christ and His Father is definitely more deeply personal than a marriage Due to the failure of my first marriage, I should know

Thomas and Mable Cowgill: Their journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ

I am surprised the only photos I have obtain of the Cowgills were wedding related! We have Chester at my sister Jenny's wedding. Otherwise, the Cowgills are only found in their son Gary's wedding! Still, I need to tell their story as best I can.

Thomas 'Tom' Cowgill was born to Clarence and Carrie Cowgill on June 16, 1919 in Hillsboro, Ohio. His parents were in their early 40s at the time as Tom was the last of five boys and a girl. As the depression began, Clarence left farming for more reliable work at a grain elevator and milling company forcing a move to outside of Wilmington in Clinton County, Ohio. Older brother Frank got a job at a filling station to help the family finances.

Now Mable was the only girl of four kids born to Ulyssess G. and Violet Drake on October 5, 1923. They owned a house in Loveland on Elm Street while dad worked as a Linotype operator. At 16, Mable began working in the lunchroom of a public school for extra money to help the family finances. The depression was real to most families during 1930s and everyone pitched in to help the family survive.



Two of the Cowgill boys, saved money and began studies at nearby Wilmington College. Donald in 1938 and Thomas the following year.

Both were capable tennis players and joined the school team. Tom Cowgill is the 2nd from the left. But their dad was turning 60 and in poor health, causing neither boy to finish college.

Thomas took a job waiting tables at a local restaurant near the campus as the family was now living close to the college. Thomas, being the family earner, found better work at Williamson's Heating Company in Oakley of Hamilton County, Ohio.

Still, Thomas had dreams of returning to college and located the family at 138 W. University near the University of Cincinnati. A long drive to work for sure. In May of 1942, Thomas' father Clarence was admitted to Longview State Hospital in Cincinnati for a vascular disease. The needs of the family changed again.

It wasn't long before the war began affecting lives of the Cowgills and the Drakes. Thomas joined the Army Air Corps on June 2, 1942, six months after Pearl Harbor brought the war officially to America.

His skilled training in metal fabrication was used in his military assignments. Yes, it is him in the photo!

As the war began winding down, those with enough points could muster out. Thomas was discharged on November 23, 1945 with a rank of Technical Sargent. During his time in the service, he was sending money home to care for his mother.

Meanwhile, Mable had also tried her hand at taking some college courses but family needs caused her to move and care for her grandmother, Mrs. H. B. Hayes in Loveland. Like Thomas, family needs overrode personal ambitions. Thomas had moved his mother closer to his work back in Oakley on Bach Ave. They rented this place located just two blocks off Madison Road. And we all know where Madison Road led. To Madisonville Christian Church where he attended with his mother. I am not aware of how he met Mable.

But meet they did, as Mable and Thomas married on July 31, 1948. Mable had earlier taken her college courses at Cincinnati Bible Seminary and this is where she wanted to be married. The evening wedding ceremony was in the Price Hill House of Worship on the college campus. Carrie, Thomas' mother, would be part of their new household.

But 1949 proved a challenging year! In February, Thomas' father died. Thomas changes job and begins working for Cincinnati Milling Machine, a company he would be with for the next 35 years! On the 8th of October, their first son arrived named Chester Wade Cowgill.

With three adults and a baby, a bigger home was needed Thomas found a home in Madeira at 7251 Rita Lane They moved on June 1, 1951 Thomas' new house had a plan for the future, as a second son arrived on Halloween of 1952! Still, they gave him the normal, non-scary name of Thomas Gary Cowgill As part of the Madisonville Christian crowd, they were early members for the closer to home, Madeira Church of Christ

Fascinating Fact Anna McKnight sewed a 'Snow White' dress for Tom and Mable's granddaughter Carrie, who was named after Tom's mother Anna was in her 70s! Also, 23 years after the Cowgills bought their house on Rita Lane, Earl and Nell Franklin bought a house just a few doors away at 7258 Rita Lane. Another interesting fact is their son Gary attended the Ohio College of Applied Science (OCAS) and graduated in 1973 I (Mike) graduated the same college in 1970. Small world!

Joseph and Ruby, Vern, & Geneive Garwood: You have seen his name throughout the previous sections. Yes, he had three wives! He and his wives were very good friends with our parents (Boettchers) and us kids as well He officiated Jenny's wedding along with the priest, Joel Stern Still, I can't say I know a lot about him.

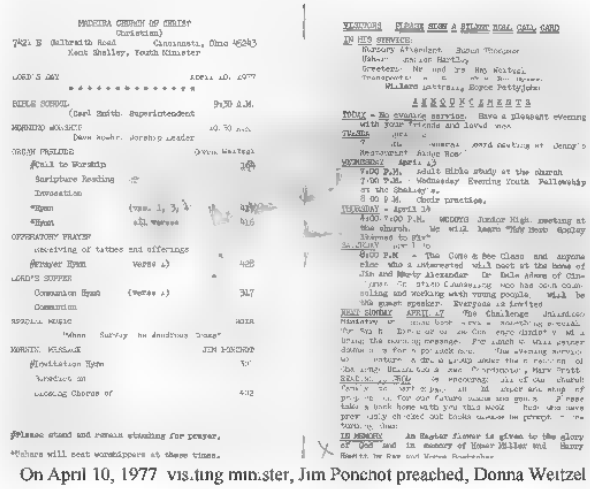
I know Joe was from Illinois and born on May 3, 1919 His first wife was Ruby Tiffin born in Illinois as well on April 8, 1922 She is the one I remember most because I was living in Georgia by 1972 and she died in 1977

He was a very personable minister and I enjoyed when he was visiting with my parents During my senior year in high school, 1968, he became the minister for Lebanon Church of Christ Earlier, I told the story about the revival going on across the street from his church

When Ruby passed away, he married Vern I don't know how long after Ruby they married nor where she was born Again, from photos, I would guess she passed away around 1983 because by 1985, Joe had married Geneive Goddard I know her birthday because it was the same as my mom, i e September 16, 1918 Yes, mom, I will tell everyone the year is different and you were younger (1920)

BUILD IT, HOPING THEY WILL COME

The church now moves from looking inward to how do we attract the lost, which we now labeled the 'unchurched'! Churches began expanding their offering of experiences, adding more activities which needed facilities like a gym, or youth center It seemed churches were becoming more an organization to run programs and activities rather than reaching the 'lost' through relationships, i e was becoming less personal Personal witnessing seemed to be a low priority!



MADEIRA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Christian)
7421 E Galbraith Road Cincinnati, Ohio 45243
Kent Shelley, Youth Minister

LORD'S DAY April 10, 1977

BIBLE SCHOOL (Carl Smith, Superintendent 9:30 A.M.
MORNING WORSHIP 10:30 A.M.
Dave Woehr, Worship Leader
ORGAN PRELUDE Donna Weitzel
*Call to Worship
Scripture Reading
Invocation
*Hymn (vss. 1, 3, & 4)
*Hymn all verses
OFFERTORY PRAYER
receiving of tithes and offerings
Prayer Hymn verse 4)
LORD'S SUPPER
Communion Hymn (verse 4)
Communion
SPECIAL MUSIC
"When Sunday Is Another Orange"
MORNING MESSAGE JIM PONCHOT
*Invitation Hymn
*Benediction
Leaving Chorus of

*Please stand and remain standing for prayer.
*Ushers will seat worshippers at these times.

VISITORS PLEASE SIGN A SILENT ROLL CALL CARD

IN HIS SERVICE:
Nursery Attendant Susan Thompson
Usher Junior Hartley
Greeters Mr and Mrs Ray Weitzel
Transportation
Millard Littrell, Royce Pettyjohn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY - No evening service. Have a pleasant evening with your friends and loved ones
TUESDAY
7 de Memorial Board meeting at Jenny's Restaurant Ridge Road
WEDNESDAY April 13
7:00 P.M. Adult Bible study at the church
7:00 P.M. Wednesday Evening Youth Fellowship at the Shelley's.
8:00 P.M. Choir practice.
THURSDAY - April 14
4:00-5:00 P.M. MEDDYS Junior High meeting at the church. We will learn "My Boss Shelley Learned to Fly"
SUNDAY April 17
9:00 P.M - The Come & See Class and anyone else who is interested will meet at the home of Jim and Marty Alexander Dr Dale Akers of Cincinnati Christian Seminary who has been counseling and working with young people. Will be our guest speaker. Everyone is invited
NEXT SUNDAY APRIL 17 The Challenge Unlimited Ministry of [illegible] have a meeting planned for us h [illegible] bring the morning message. For lunch it will [illegible] for a potluck meal. The evening service [illegible] under the direction of [illegible] Mary Pratt.
READING [illegible] encouraging all of our church family to [illegible] all prayer and study of [illegible] for our future [illegible] Please take a book home with you this week Both [illegible] prayerfully consider [illegible] prompt [illegible]
IN MEMORY An Easter flower is given to the glory of God and in memory of Homer Miller and Harry Shortt by Ray and Norma Boettcher

On April 10, 1977 visiting minister, Jim Ponchot preached, Donna Weitzel was organist, Dave Woehr, worship leader, Carl Smith Bible School Supt , Kent Shelley was Youth Minister, Susan Thompson, Nursery, Charles Hartley, usher, M/M Ray Weitzel greeters, Transportation was Bob Kirker, Roy Myers, Willard Littrel., Royce Pettyjohn, Come & See class meeting would be at Jim Marty Alexander

The church was between ministers as the next service will be given by Tom Smith of Challenge Unlimited Ministry, Easter Flowers given in memory of Homer Miller and Harry Hewitt by Ray Norma Boettcher

Now here is where I (*Mike*) again pick up the story of the Brights and Troutman families Although, the Brights had moved away by this time, the Troutmans were still attending, as was their daughter Ellen. If you look at the bulletin, you will see Kent Shelley was the youth minister Jerry Lewis had left as senior minister in September 1976 and a new minister would not be called until June 1977 So, being the curious people person that I am, I went looking for Kent Shelley!

It took a few searches but I discovered he was now a Canadian Registered Psychotherapist and Certified Life Coach with a Master's degree in Education! Wow As I tried to contact him, his website folks kept trying to book me for an online counseling session I said 'no thanks,' as my effort was only to see if he was the youth minister at Madeira Church of Christ in 1977

He finally got the message and responded with an enormous amount of information. My first question was how did a Canadian come be a youth minister in little ole Madeira in 1977! Another story of personal relationships

Kent was attending the University of Toronto, School of Theology and his future wife, Deb, was attending Ontario Christian University Deb met a Pastor Mike Boys' doing missionary work there and introduced him to Kent Yes, I am referring to another Madeira church family mentioned earlier, Clyde 'Red' and Ruth Boys! Mike was their oldest son. Stay with me, please!

Mike Boys learned after the two (Kent and Deb) were going to marry in 1975, they would be going to Cincinnati where Kent would attend Cincinnati Christian Seminary's (*yes, new name for CBS*) Graduate School to work on his Master's Degree So, Mike tells them, they ought to look up Madeira Church of Christ for a place to worship and introduce themselves to his parents there

Kent and Deb did begin attending the church in 1975, and in 1976 when the youth minister left, Jerry Lewis offered Kent the job! Kent took it to help with expenses while attending college

Stay with me, I'm almost there As part of his youth group, there was Ellen Troutman, Eva Bright's niece. Others were Mike's younger brothers, Kevin and Brent Boys. Brent was in the same high school class as my sister, Jennifer Boettcher! Mike was 14 years older than his brother Brent

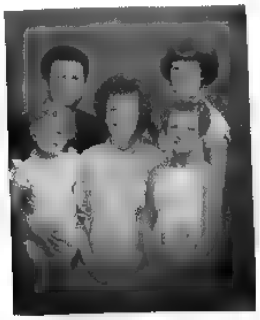
Also, in the youth group was a musically talented boy by the name Kenneth Eugene Read Remember his story was told earlier in this book? Ken was being brought to church by his grandmother, Virginia Nelson, along with sister Laurie At a VBS program in June 1970, he felt the call and was baptized with a group of about 4 or 5 youths. Al Holzhauer did the baptism just before he would leave at the end of the month Yeah, you remember Ken! So, this was how a Canadian became a youth minister at Madeira Church of Christ!

Another thing Madeira Church of Christ did right, is the hiring of youth ministers To mention some who passed through their doors are David Fiensy, Ron Cataldo, Dean Heitkamp, Larry Lamden, Kent Shelley, and others They had a tremendous impact on the youth and growing the future church

Dr. Lee and Karen Mason: Their journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ

Harold Lee Mason was born to Harold J and Naomi M Mason in Mishawaka, Indiana on December 11, 1944 He had a sister, Flora, who was 10 years older His father worked for Bendix as a grinder but his heart was in the furniture business Eventually, he was the owner of a furniture store in South Bend, Indiana This is where Lee attended John Adams High School, graduating in 1963 Immediately, Lee began attending Cincinnati Bible Seminary where he met Miss Karen Sue Maxwel. They were married on February 15, 1966 as Lee continued his studies

Lee and Karen moved about as the family grew Lee got his PhD at the California Graduate School of Theology He and the family eventually came to Madeira Church of Christ in June of 1977 They bought a house in Montgomery, just north of the church The girls would attend the Sycamore school system The picture is from the 1980 church directory



You will notice Karen is pregnant when the photo was taken in 1979

Happily, on October 17, she delivered a son named Joshua Lee Mason

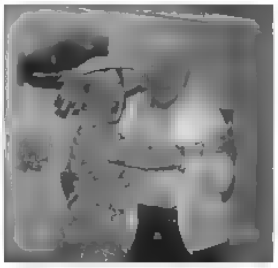
As mentioned earlier, Madisonville began the process of closing its doors On July 29, 1979, the merger of the Madisonville and Madeira congregations was official The Madisonville church was sold and members began attending Madeira

Seeing the increased numbers of people attending, Lee Mason encouraged the trustees to build a larger sanctuary Many in the congregation felt a more modern building would bring more worshipers As part of the growth plan, Madeira Church of Christ purchased the lot next door (125 X 350) from Vera Juergens on July 8, 1980

Still, getting 'personal' was happening in the Sunday adult class called 'Come and See '

Here you see Cecil Beckett and Jerry Green in ladies' attire, hugging, during a 'Come and See' class party, in 1980

Definitely, they were getting persona. '



Gerald "Jerry" and Gloria Green: Their journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ

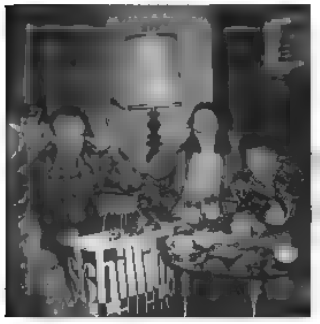
Gerald Lee Green was born November 17, 1925 to Maro and Dorothy Green in Sadieville, Kentucky He was the middle of three sons His father worked for the railroad starting as a machinist then becoming a signalman in Ohio They lived on De Armand Street in North College Hill when Jerry (this is what I learned Mr Green was being called) went off to join the Merchant Marines at 17 The war leased Liberty Ships to transport war materials and troops during the war One of the ships Jerry served on was the SS Solomon Juneau named after the first mayor of Milwaukee!

Gloria Hope Guy was born November 26, 1926 to John and Helen Guy in Los Angeles, California It wasn't long before they returned to Ohio to be back with family John worked as an auto mechanic John again moved everyone to Bloomington, Indiana working as a mechanic at a Ford dealership Still again, John came back to Ohio with his family living off Hamilton Avenue on Meis Street in North College Hill

Gloria's senior picture, 1944

Jerry returned to the family home after his time in the Merchant Marines. His father got him work with the railroad maintaining signals such as switches and their traffic control lights along the tracks. I don't know how they met but Gloria and Jerry did. She was a telephone operator at the time They married on April 12, 1947 Jerry's father helped the newlyweds buy a home at 3801 Llewellyn Street off Millcreek Road Soon the family began growing Randal Lee Green was born on July 4, 1948 Yes, this is Independence Day and the same day as my sister, Sylvia Boettcher, was born Small world right! Sister Patricia Lynn was born October 16, 1952

Jerry began a career change into the insurance business. After selling the house on Llewellyn, they bought the house at 9110 Montgomery Rd on Oct 7, 1963. This was a main traffic road and Jerry proudly put his State Farm sign out front! As you now know, Montgomery Road runs across E. Galbraith where Madeira Church of Christ is located. It wasn't long before the Greens became an important force within the church. Jerry even played on the church softball team with Jerry Babik. Boy, did that get confusing sometimes with two Jerrys!



Also, the old gang of members who began the church, continued to gather in homes.

Here is Clarence, daughter Nancy, and Peggy Perkins celebrating gift exchange, in the Boettchers' house at Christmas 1980.

To build the new sanctuary required money, so a fundraising day was planned for March 28, 1981. It was labeled 'Miracle Day' and the building fund offering was $136,000 for new sanctuary.

More gatherings of those Christians getting personal!

Here, Norma and Ray Boettcher are with Joe Garwood in his camper parked at Paint Creek State Park (Ohio), April 1981.

Joe's wife Vern is taking the picture.

Still gathering is Ray Boettcher and Clarence Perkins at Coe's in Gatlinburg, Tennessee in August 1981.

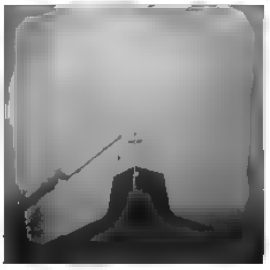
Don't they look like real cowboys!

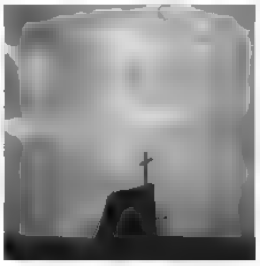
Soon the funds were sufficient to build a new sanctuary and a 'Ground Breaking' ceremony was held on June 6, 1982! The estimated cost for the new sanctuary was $650,000. Jerry and Gloria Green offered to purchase the stain glass windows going into the new sanctuary.

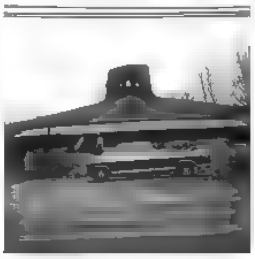
While the building of the new sanctuary was underway, gathering together' was still in full swing.

Here is Norma Boettcher with Vern and Joe Garwood vacationing in Williamsburg, Virginia (Ray is taking this picture in August 1982)

By April 1, 1983 the new sanctuary was getting its cross set on top







Always something special about setting the cross atop one of God's houses. It seems to speak out to the passersby and the community about what may be found inside, Faith, Hope and Love, but the greatest of these is Love (**1 Cor 13:13**).

After final finishing details inside, the church was able to hold its first service on May 15, 1983

Yes, still gathering, and breaking bread!

The Garwoods and Boettchers eating at Red Coach Restaurant in Glen Falls New York near Lake George in July 1983

They are on the way to visit Niagara Falls!

On November 6, 1983, an official building dedication was held. The membership in attendance was estimated to be 543. Hallelujah!

What follows are the pages for the dedication service. You will notice many of the early members still active in the church!

MADEIRA CHURCH OF CHRIST
7[illegible] East [illegible]
[illegible]

November 6, 1983

DEDICATORY SERVICE

Prelude — Donna Weitzel
*Call to Worship — Richard Betscher
*Hymn — No. 4
"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"
*Invocation — Jerry Green
Welcome — B. Young Worstell
Hymn of Praise — No. 6
"SING GOD, OUR PRAISES TO THEE ON HIGH"
Introduction of Speaker — Dr. Lee Mason
Scripture Reading — Robert Kliever
Message in Song — Chancel Choir
"GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD"
Dedicatory Address — Dr. Donnie Fulton
Message in Song — Chancel Choir
"SING UNTO THE LORD"
Acts of Dedication — Buddy Blum

*Congregation is asked to please stand

THE ACT OF DEDICATION

Leader: Having been prospered by the hand of Almighty God, and enabled by His grace and power to construct this building for Christian worship and teaching

People: WE DEDICATE THIS BUILDING TO THE HONOR AND GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON, AND GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

Leader: "And Jesus came to them and said, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age."

People: WE DEDICATE THIS BUILDING TO THE CARRYING OUT OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

Leader: "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."

People: WE DEDICATE THIS BUILDING TO THE TEACHING OF GOD'S WORD

Leader: "Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness."

People: WE DEDICATE THIS PROPERTY TO THE WORSHIP OF GOD IN THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS

Leader: "Sing unto the Lord a new song;
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, praise His name;
Proclaim His salvation day after day.
Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous deeds among all peoples.
For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise."

People: WE DEDICATE THIS BUILDING TO THE SERVING OF PRAISES TO OUR GOD

Leader: In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of His appearing and His kingdom, I give you this charge: preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction.

People: WE DEDICATE THIS BUILDING TO THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL

Leader: I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to these words, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

People: WE DEDICATE THIS BUILDING TO THE PRESERVATION AND PROCLAMATION OF DIVINE TRUTH

Leader: To the honor of God, the exaltation of Jesus Christ His Son, and to the glory and power of His Holy Spirit

People: WE DEDICATE THIS BUILDING!

*Dedication Prayer — Paul Wessel
*Doxology — Congregation
Message in Song — Jim Goode
Offertory Statement — Michael Goodhart
Prayer — Paul Wylie
Dedication Day Greetings — John C. Jones, Sr.
Comments — Dr. Lee Mason
*Benediction — Robert Allman
*Hymn of Benediction — "LEAD ON, O KING ETERNAL"
Organ Postlude — Donna Weitzel

WELCOME

We are happy to welcome you to this very special service in the Church of the Madeira Church of Christ. This congregation was started in June of 1957 by the Madisonville Christian Church to help spread New Testament Christianity in the area of Madeira. Our commitment was to reach people with the message of Jesus Christ. We have no creed but Christ, no book but the Bible, and wear no name but the Divine. We speak where the Scriptures speak and are silent where the Scriptures are silent. We seek true Christians in unity under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We are happy that you are here today and if you have any questions about this congregation and what we believe, we would be more than happy to meet with you and share in the things of God.

IMPORTANT DATES

June, 1957 — Congregation began to see home of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Allman under the help and direction of the Madisonville Christian Church.

June 7, 1959 — Ground was broken for first unit.

June 5, 1960 — First service held in new building. Fifth unit was built and furnished at a cost of $60,000.

July 1, 1967 — Ground was broken for expansion unit.

November, 1968 — Educational unit was first used.

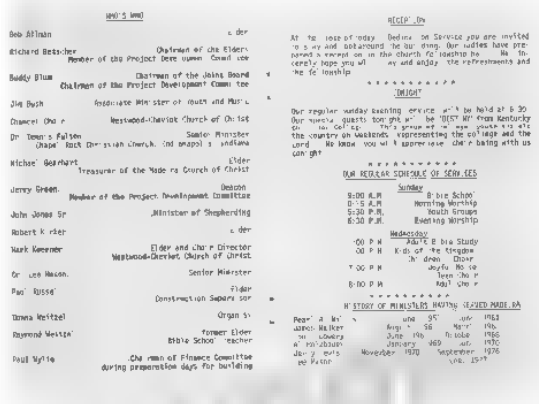
July 29, 1979 — A merger took place between the Madisonville Christian Church and the Madeira Church of Christ.

March 29, 1981 — "Miracle Day" offering received for new building of over $136,000

June 5, 1982 — Ground was broken for new building. Planned to cost around $650,000

May 15, 1983 — First service held in new building.

November 6, 1983 — Dedication Service for new building.



WHO'S WHO

Bob Allman — Elder
Richard Betscher — Chairman of the Elders
Member of the Project Development Committee
Buddy Blum — Chairman of the Joint Board
Chairman of the Project Development Committee
Jim Bush — Associate Minister of Youth and Music
Chancel Choir — Westwood-Chariot Church of Christ
Dr. Tennis Fulton — Senior Minister
(Have been Church of Christ in Indiana and Kentucky)
Michael Gearhart — Elder
Treasurer of the Madeira Church of Christ
Jerry Green — Deacon
Member of the Project Development Committee
John Jones Sr. — Minister of Shepherding
Robert Kliever — Elder
Mark Kemener — Elder and Choir Director
Westwood-Chariot Church of Christ
Dr. Lee Mason — Senior Minister
Paul Russell — Elder
Construction Supervisor
Donna Weitzel — Organist
Raymond Weitzel — Former Elder
Bible School Teacher
Paul Wylie — Chairman of Finance Committee
during preparation days for building

RECEPTION

At the close of today's Dedication Service you are invited to stay and gather around the buildings. Our ladies have prepared a reception in the Church Fellowship Hall. We sincerely hope you will stay and enjoy the refreshments and the fellowship.

* * * * * * * * * * *

TWILIGHT

Our regular Sunday Evening service won't be held at 6:30 Our special guests tonight will be "WEST WIND from Kentucky Christian College. This group of [illegible] young people from the country on weekends, representing the college and the Lord. We know you will appreciate their sharing with us tonight.

* * * * * * * * * * *

OUR REGULAR SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday
9:00 A.M. — Bible School
10:45 A.M. — Morning Worship
5:30 P.M. — Youth Groups
6:30 P.M. — Evening Worship

Wednesday
7:00 P.M. — ADULT Bible Study
7:00 P.M. — Kids of the Kingdom
Children's Choir
7:00 P.M. — Joyful Noise
Teen Choir
8:00 P.M. — Adult Choir

* * * * * * * * * *

HISTORY OF MINISTERS HAVING SERVED MADEIRA

Reverend Walker — 1958 to 1962
Reverend Walker — Right to 58 — March 1964
Jim Bowers — June 19[illegible] to [illegible] 1966
Ron Johnson — January 1969 to 1970
Jerry Evans — November 1970 to September 1976
Joe Petrie — 1976 to 1977

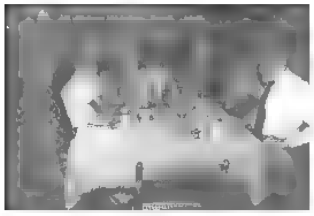
Donna Weitzel, a wonderful organist, played the Prelude with her husband Ray giving a "Welcome" message to all in attendance. He was one of the valuable Bible teachers of the church and an Elder.

Jerry Green, a Deacon, did the Invocation and was an important member of the "Project Development Committee" responsible for the new sanctuary.

Robert 'Bob' Allman, Elder, gave the Benediction at the end of service. It was his and Maxine's home where it all started in Jan 1957. God has blessed and guided this community of believers for 26 years!

The new sanctuary was a half round arrangement of padded pews. Now begins the work of filling those seats through the personal relationship of telling the "Good News."

Here you see the choir singing in the new sanctuary I recognize Marilyn Abbott in the back row, 2nd from the left.

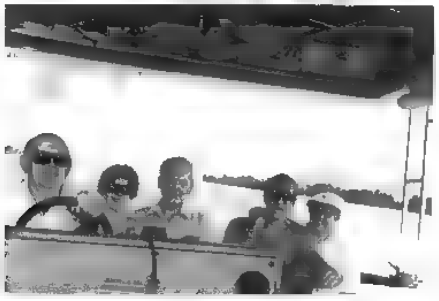


More breaking of bread at the Beckett's home

(L R) Vern and Joe Garwood, Betty Beckett, Norma, and Ray Boettcher with Cecil Beckett taking this picture

Clockwise from Ray Boettcher with food in his mouth facing camera, Louis 'Smoke and Mary Gross, Jennifer (nee Boettcher, yellow dress) Theobald, Betty Beckett, Geneive (3rd wife), and Joe Garwood, then Norma Boettcher About 1985 Cecil Beckett again doing the photographer's job Notice the rabbit ears on the TV behind Mary Gross The Boettchers never had cable TV nor air conditioning for this house on Euclid, before moving to Maineville in 1992. Here's a second shot with Smoke and Mary Seems like someone told a joke and Smoke liked it!

Above is Joe Garwood (L-R) on his pontoon boat with wife Genevie, Betty Beckett with Norma Boettcher trying to put horns on Betty as Betty does the same to Norma' Cecil Becket is taking the picture (of course) with Ray Boettcher trying to fish (of course) off the side of the boat Below is again Joe and Genevie (L-R) with Cecil, Ray, and Norma hugging on Ray Summer of 1985



On a personal note, I (*Mike Boettcher*) was living in the south, finally ending up in Georgia I was drifting far from God and divorced in 1987 on December 7th, a day that will live in infamy for me

Celebrating Memorial Day at church in 1998 Norma and Ray Boettcher's display includes daughter Mollie who was in the Navy when she passed away October 31, 1997 with cancer This entrance was in the hallway, if you turned right went to the old part and turned left to go down the classroom hallway into the new building sanctuary

Flowers being presented to Marilyn Abbott for her many years of dedication as the church secretary

She is retiring from the position in 2000 and Lee Mason thanked her for such faithful dedication

Marilyn, Charles (Chuck) and Timothy Abbott: Their contribution to making the church a loving, welcoming place

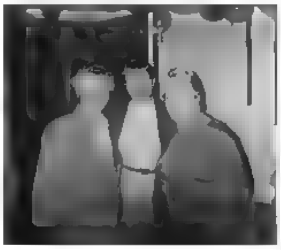
Marilyn is another one I knew but not very well I know she was much younger than my parents because she was born on September 23, 1935 This is my birth month as well

1952 Woodward HS Yearbook picture, Marilyn is a Junior

She went to Woodward High School and upon graduating in 1953 found work as a secretary. She married a Navy veteran from Goshen, Ohio named Charles O. Abbott III on March 20, 1954.

In the early 60s, they had two boys, Charles IV (1958) and Timothy (1963). They found a home in Clermont County able to fit them all together. Marilyn quickly found Madeira Church of Christ and began teaching young kids in Sunday School. Marilyn could sing and play the piano. We all knew her as a very faithful person who knew the Lord. By early 1970, she was a single mom trying to raise two boys approaching their teenage years. Now, she really needed the Lord and her strong faith.

If teaching in Bible School, and singing in the choir while raising boys was NOT enough, she took on the church secretary's role in 1977! Talk about a stressful life! It appeared to us she did it with ease. Always had a smile and seemed to me to have a humorous attitude. She remained the church secretary for over 20 years.



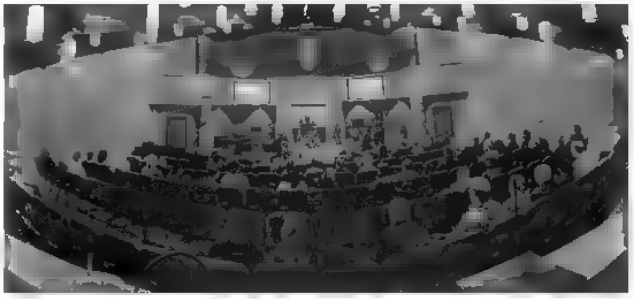
Susan Babik, Marilyn Abbott, and Billie Lake while living at Mason Christian Village, about early 2000

The Mason Christian Village was a favorite retirement community for many members of Madeira Church of Christ

By 2002 churches were well into the new century and began finding a new direction. Many became 'Mission Oriented.' The shift was to focus beyond the church building. Engage the world. Is this personal witnessing to a neighbor or a church 'project?' Could be both.

The Boettchers had moved out of the area as did many of the families who began the church back in 1957. I was in Georgia and knew little of how my home church changed. The current minister is Jeff Hill who has been pastor there since 2002. He succeeded Matthew Shepherd. By March of 2007, the church had changed the title of the property to 'Connections Christian Church' making the name change official.

Over time, the pews were removed and chairs were in use. The higher stage arrangement was removed as well since the move was to a small 'praise group.' No longer would an area for a large 'choir' be needed. Now there were large display screens instead of hymnals.



The church at 7421 E. Galbraith is still part of a loose-knit fellowship of churches known as Christian Churches or Churches of Christ. There is no hierarchy beyond the local congregation. But gone are the pews. Is it still a group of people giving a personal witnessing of their Lord?

This book is not about the physical church located at 7421 E. Galbraith Road. It is a book about the spiritual church and the many souls who have passed through those doors since 1957. It is about the personal relationship one has with the Lord and sharing it with others, one-on-one. This circle remains unbroken when you learn of Sampson Perry, Jr.

Sampson was a member of Connections Christian Church who passed away in 2020 He was a strong personal witness for Christ as evidenced by these loving testimonials!

"Sam didn't let the pandemic or cancer keep him from being his loving, considerate, personable self He called the ladies of the church to wish them a happy Mother s Day and the men to wish them a happy Father s Day. I'm so glad I missed his call It led me to return his call and have a short but nice talk and I still have his message on my phone Sam loved everyone at Connections and everyone loved Sam He will be truly missed." *Lisa Neel, December 08, 2020*

"Sam will truly be missed as part of our church family a kind and beautiful soul ! He is in his forever home now and someday in the future we shall meet again my dear friend! ! God bless your family!" *Loretta Schoonover December 09, 2020*

"My belated condolences to the Perry Family I am saddened just learning of Sam s passing, but I am comforted to know that Sam knew the Lord Jesus and is now at rest with him As a longtime friend, neighbor, and classmate of Sam's, I will miss Sam dearly I will cherish the memory of Sam s warm and open heart and his faithful and sincere concern for my family During our many chats over the years Sam always had something endearing and positive to share! My prayers of comfort are for the entire Perry Family May Sam truly rest in the sweet peace of Christ our Lord." *Darrell Phillips January 21, 2021*

Everyone who witnesses their faith to others, grows internally in the spirit and grows the 'Church Body' of Christ as well May we each choose to emulate Sampson Perry

Someone once said, "Everyone dies twice; once bodily and the other when stories stop being told about you" Similarly, the Ancient Egyptians believed we all die twice First, when we take our last breath Second, when our name is spoken for the last time

The Holy Spirit, was sent by the Father and the Son as the comforter for Christ's followers, a gift Neglecting God s gifts can have a deadly end In 1 Thessalonians 5 19 (**[19] Do not quench the Spirit;**) we are warned not to quench it **The warning should indicate that we can, indeed, quench this gift.**

In **Ephesians 4:30 ([30] Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,)** Paul reminds us not to sadden or distress the Holy spirit within us Now, only a dear friend can be grieved Not a stranger he might be at most, annoyed Only a loved one, who truly cares for us, can be grieved by our actions

Let us not grieve the Holy Spirit! But also, let us not grieve those who went before us, establishing a community of believers known as Madeira Church of Christ!

All life ends in the same way, but it is the details of how we lived it, that makes one different May our time here on Earth distinguishes us as faithful disciples of the one true God and his Son, Jesus! Thank you all for your love

Pam and Ray

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FAMILY ALBUM

1980 Directory Photos

These are the only photos I have found of church members I remember! It's hard to believe I haven't had any of mine nor been able to track down a response from their kin to get more photos! But their story needs to be included for their 'personal witnessing' of faith!

GREEN, JERRY & GLORIA

I had profiled the Greens earlier but I didn't have a picture with Gloria So, I needed to add this one Also, I did track one down dated 2000! Great couple!

COWGILL TOM & MABLE CHESTER

Here are the Cowgills I mentioned at the end of the wedding section!

COWGILL GARY & JENNIFER STACEY

DOYLE, JOHN & LENA

Here's another family friend where the only photo I had was John and Lena at weddings! I did profile them when mentioning the $2 bill he gave Sylvia for graduating high school!

But I did want to include a photo of Lena Again, this is from the church directory, 1980

In the wedding section, we saw Clara Sevier serving refreshments at the Vogelpohl's wedding But it wasn't a place to tell THEIR story at someone's wedding, right Well, here it is!

Doyle and Clara Sevier: Their journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ

Doyle Dwayne Sevier was born to Herbert and Eula Sevier on September 11, 1935 in Laurel County Kentucky This county is located half way between Lexington, Kentucky and Knoxville, Tennessee Doyle was one of eight kids needed to help dad on the farm Now on a farm nearby lived Clara Elaine Simpson

She lived on a farm belonging to her mother's father Nathaniel Wyatt She was born on April 6, 1937 to Dewey and Vera Simpson Dewey worked as a carpenter to earn extra money for the family

Evidently Doyle and Clara were madly in love! So much so, they traveled south to Jellico, just across the line into Tennessee She had just turned 16 and he was not yet 18 when they married on July 5, 1953! It was such an impulse event, they used the Jellico Justice of the Peace to marry them on the spot! Now the question for Doyle is, "how to provide for my new bride?" Join the Army of course! Doyle entered the Army and spent some time in Korea Thankfully, the Korean War had ended officially the month they married! Doyle reached the rank of Sp4 when he returned home

Doyle then took some college courses obtaining a Bachelor's degree before finding work in Cincinnati, uprooting Clara out of her Kentucky home! They were attending Madisonville Christian Church when the work to plant a church in Madeira began Doyle was now working at Cincinnati Milacron (formerly Cinti Milling Machine), the same place Tom Cowgill worked. Doyle can now afford to buy a home on Fields Ertel Road sometime before 1962 This road was off Montgomery Road And we all remember where Montgomery Road went, right? Intersects with E. Galbraith where Madeira Church of Christ was located!

Doyle and Clara were founding members of the church in Madeira They were blessed with a son late in life His name is Kevin Dwayne Sevier and was born on May 12, 1972 What a blessing for a couple so full of love for the Lord and others! Definitely another couple who always seemed to personally witness their faith I wish I had more pictures of them doing all the things they did around the church! Still I did find these. Doyle with his winning smile and Kevin's 1990 senior picture!

WEITZEL, RAYMOND & DONNA
BARRIE, ANGELA

Raymond and Donna Weitzel: The journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ

Raymond Lawrence Weitzel was born to Raymond R Weitzel and Ruth Weitze. on February 12, 1935, President Lincoln's birthday! They rented a house on Plymouth Street in the Mt Washington area of Hamilton County His father managed a car repair garage and eventually became the manager of a building materials warehouse

When Ray was 15, dad got him some part-time work at the warehouse Meanwhile, mom worked for the Agricultural Department running office equipment Ray attended Western Hills High School, graduating in 1953

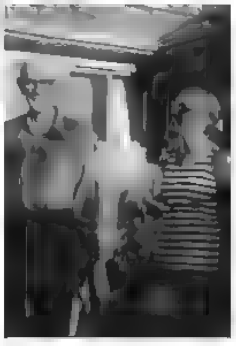
Donna Lee Ake was born June 30, 1935 to Albert Donald and Mary Ake in Cincinnati when mom was 34 and dad was 29 But Donald was a born salesman He was able to buy a house at 4217 Harding Avenue working as an automobile salesman He was only 231

Later he bought a second home in Indianapolis on Tacoma Street working as a Life Insurance agent But then Donald was called to sell Jesus! At the start of the war, Donald worked for the Church Members Relief Association, later going back to Ohio and attend Cincinnati Bible Seminary! Eventually, they were all living back on Harding Street, their first home. Donald was a minister when Donna attended Western Hills High School Guess who was her high school sweetheart? Yes, Ray Weitze. I wonder how they met since in any line of students, she would be near the beginning and he would be near the end God makes a way doesn't he

They both were attending University of Cincinnati when they decided to marry on New Years Day, 1956! Ray and his bride began living with her parents on Harding Street. Ray became a commissioned officer in the Army (Transportation Div) after completing ROTC summer camp training in 1958 Upon graduating UC, Ray began his tour with the Army on April 19, 1959 After two years, some in Vietnam, he was discharge with the rank of Captain, on April 18, 1961

Now the Weitzels can begin life as normal civilians. And of course, this means children! On August 11, 1963, daughter Barrie Lynn arrived. On October 15, 1965, daughter Angela Ray arrived Seeing the home getting crowded on Harding, the family made the move to Montgomery, Ohio in a newly built home on Iolain Drive, August 23, 1971 This was a short trip down Montgomery Road to the intersection with E Galbraith Road Yes, where the church was located They became energetic members with Donna especially involved in the music programs as described earlier

This is the only photo I have of Mr Clopton and I wanted to share it Mr Clopton is with Sylvia Boettcher at Maxine - Bob Allman's house in late 1960s or early 1970s



Here's the Hartley's 1980 church directory picture

I am astounded that I have not found a church picture with them in it, since they were always around doing things, especially 'Ginny' Hartley as Norma, my mom, called her!

Charles 'Bert' and Virginia 'Ginny' Hartley: Their journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ

Charles Burton Hartley was born to Granville A. and Flora E. Hartley on September 30, 1926 in Scottsburg, Indiana. His father was a postal clerk for the railroad. If you remember, John Doyle was a mail clerk for the railroad as well. Meanwhile, over in nearby Bedford, Indiana, Virginia Mae Brock was born to Roy and Mabel Brock on October 11, 1927. Her father worked in the garment industry.

Charles 'Bert' Hartley was already attending the University of Indiana when he reached 18 and registered for the draft in 1944. Virginia found her way to Christ Hospital in Cincinnati for training as a nurse. Her fellow trainees included Anna Ritenour (future Mrs. McKnight) and Maxine Howland (future Mrs. Allman). After graduating, Virginia returned to Scottsburg and would travel across the Ohio River to Louisville. There she became qualified as a member of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps at Kentucky Baptist Hospital.

Somehow, God brought Charles and Virginia together in Scottsburg. By 1948 they married on August 20. Bert continued his schooling in Bloomington and Virginia work as a nurse in a doctor's office. Another case of a wife putting their hubby through college. They were living in campus housing. Also, a child entered their quiet home. Born on October 20, 1950 was a son they named Terry Lee Hartley. By 1952, Charles received a teaching position at Madeira High School. They bought a home at 6768 Rose Crest Ave on September 24, 1952. This was just off Dawson Road and a short drive to the school. More children arrived to occupy the house on Rose Crest. Deborah Sue on October 28, 1953 and Donald Gene on August 25, 1954.

My sisters and I knew Charles 'Bert' Hartley more from school. Each of us had him for science and Biology. Here's some of his year book pictures at Madeira. This first one is 1954! He watches wrestling!

MR. CHARLES HARTLEY
B.A. Indiana University

The phrase happy-go-lucky might well describe our science teacher Mr. Hartley. His favorite period is lunch hour, and his favorite pastime is sleeping. Mr. Hartley spends his evenings on woodworking and watching wrestling on TV. On weekends (when the season's right) he goes hunting and fishing. He is a great lover of all kinds of sports and spends a great deal of time coaching Madeira's "Little Mustangs."

Tennis Team

FIRST ROW: Dave MacKnight, Jim Cates, Lee Maeussen, Coach Hartley
SECOND ROW: Bill Linder, Bill Ladwig, Tom Chaney, Rick Gentry, Jim Ashby, Chuck Kilch, Shuey Woxle

By 1963, Mr. Hartley branched out into coaching the tennis team. Next picture is his effort at advising the Junior class of 1967. This was my class and he did help us make it through to become seniors.

Juniors

The optimistic Junior Class of 1967 has just completed their busiest year to date. Starting in September the Juniors were faced with the task of raising money for the [illegible] of Senior Prom to be held in May. By diligently keeping the candy machines full and by roaming through the football stands peddling their wares, the Juniors managed to reach their goal and honored the Seniors with the social highlight of the year.

This year Juniors began to think about the all college Testing college boards proved to be a difficult task but we are confident that this class of 68 did quite well. Some will [illegible]

Next year with our school in the hands of these competent juniors, we can visualize nothing but success and well-being for Madeira High School.

Shari Ickes, Secretary; Bill Lewis, [illegible]; President Judy Reed, Vice President; Sharon Hall, Treasurer

Boettchers and Hartleys would go together for brunch after church, during the late 1970s, Bert was supposed to be on a diet but ignored most of it during these meals All of us who had Mr Hartley for Biology were obliged to make a 'Leaf Book ' This was a homework assignment involving searching the countryside for leaves of various trees You press the leaves and place them with their identification and characteristics into a 'Loose Leaf' notebook (HaHa)'

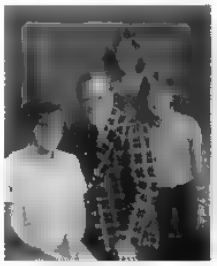
My sister Jenny worked on her leaf book with help from our cousin Tim, who was a future teacher himself She had nice sheet protectors with great info for each leaf Jenny needed a B for her to be on the junior varsity volleyball team, per coach Ms W.lson But Bert gave her a C- because she didn't give enough detail, in his opinion, on the leaves' A friend of Mr Hartley was Ernie Combs who taught Algebra to Jenny She would see them together and refer to them as "Bert and Ernie" of Sesame Street' To this day, Jenny remembers that C she got'

This is the last picture of Charles and Virginia Hartley I have Taken about the early 2000s.

Here again is a wonderful family who made the church such a welcoming place I did have a picture earlier of Billie but not the family

This is their 1980 picture in the church directory

Donald and Billie Lake: Their journey bringing them to Madeira Church of Christ



LAKE, DONALD & BILLIE ' DONNA, DOUG

Donald was born to Roy T and Grace M Lake in Covington, Kentucky on April Fool's Day in 1928 It must have been the perfect day, as Donald came late in the life of his parents Mom was 41 and dad was 43 while siblings were well into their teenage years Although being born in Kentucky, the family moved to 4281 Clifford Road in Deer Park, Ohio when he was 2 years old Dad had found work as a machinist in a tool plant which allowed him to buy this house'

Billie Mae Moore was born to Carl F and Lulu E. Moore on September 12, 1935 At the time, they were living in Milford on Maple Street while dad was a shoe shop repairman Quickly, he moved on to a more profitable trade as a pipefitter for the railroad They sold the house in Milford and bought a house at 7100 Wallace Avenue in Madeira on November 11, 1945

Billie is an only child and attended the Madeira School system Here is her senior picture and bio in the 1953 Yearbook'

BILLIE MAE MOORE, Billie

Billie's sparkling sense of humor combined with her bubbling enthusiasm make her a nice person to get to know For four years she has served as accompanist for our high school chorus a job which made full use of her musical ability and unending patience Billie's homespun philosophy causes us all to wish we could be as carefree as she.

Activities Senior Class Play, Variety Show 4 GAA 1 2 Blue and Gold Staff 2,3 Chorus 2,3,4 Octette 4. Accompanist 1 2 3 4 Annual Staff Operetta 1 3 4 Intramurals 2

Meanwhile, Donald attended Deer Park High School graduating in 1946

Donald Gene Lake, 1946 Senior picture

He took a job with The Philip Carey Manufacturing Company in Lockland This was dangerous work! They manufactured asphalt and asbestos roof shingles, in a hot and unhealthy surrounding. So, Donald moved on to the Army

On October 19, 1950, Donald enlists in the Army and spends two years working for Uncle Sam. He gets discharged on October 11, 1952 and begins to put his service experience to work He finds work as a security guard But when his dad, Roy, passes away on March 18, 1955, Donald becomes responsible for his mom, Grace.

This is another couple where I have no idea how they met! He lived in Deer Park and was older She lived in Madeira However, God finds a way to bring together a couple designed for each other They were married Sept 20, 1958, he was 30, she was 23! Initially, they lived with Donald's mother Grace in Deer Park But in 1960, Billie's dad passes away and Lulu was now by herself on Wallace Avenue So now they would bounce back and forth from Deer Park to Madeira

During these trips there was still time to have their own family Donna Jean was born in August of 1961 followed by Donald Arron in October of 1966 Grace was needing to have 'home help' full time due to her health issues and having young kids about the house was not beneficial Lulu didn't need the chaos of kids either

Eventually the moms said Donald and family needed to get their own place! Which they did, buying a house 7251 Iuka Avenue on June 23, 1971 This was in Madeira and of course, needing a church, let's go where her mom goes Madeira Church of Christ! I remember Billie best for her smile

Here's the 1980 directory photo for the Abbotts I profiled earlier! Thought you might want the see the boys without their fancy wedding suits!

ABBOTT, MARILYN
CHIP TIM

Some Memories Shared

From Nancy (nee Perkins) Johnson

Norma Boettcher threw me a baby shower, 'A Surprise' baby shower I was not feeling it that day because I was feeling very fat and uncomfortable I was forced to go and when we got to your parents' (Boettcher's) house, I refused to get out of the car Finally, after about 5 minutes or so, Norma came out to the car and talked me into coming in for a minute As soon as I walked around back, well I saw about 20 ladies from the church there for me I was truly surprised The community of the church was very strong, supportive, and loving. And oh, how I loved Norma Footnote. I never allowed photos of me pregnant No photo unless someone else has some. Shower would have been late May or early June of 1979 My daughter was born July 2nd

I remember once at vacation bible school, someone had put a snake in my mom's (Peggy Perkins) car Scared the –– out of her Definitely - some onery boys

One thing I remember vividly about Norma was anytime we went anywhere, if we crossed into Indiana, she would take a deep breath and say "Smell that fresh Indiana air!" And that was quite often because we were always going somewhere together searching for antiques

From Jenny (nee Boettcher) Theobald

Pam Lester, Amy Gatchell and I would hang out together during our early teenage years (1972-74), including attending youth group. I remember the fun we had

Betty Beckett owned an Antique store in Amelia called the "Cannonball Express "

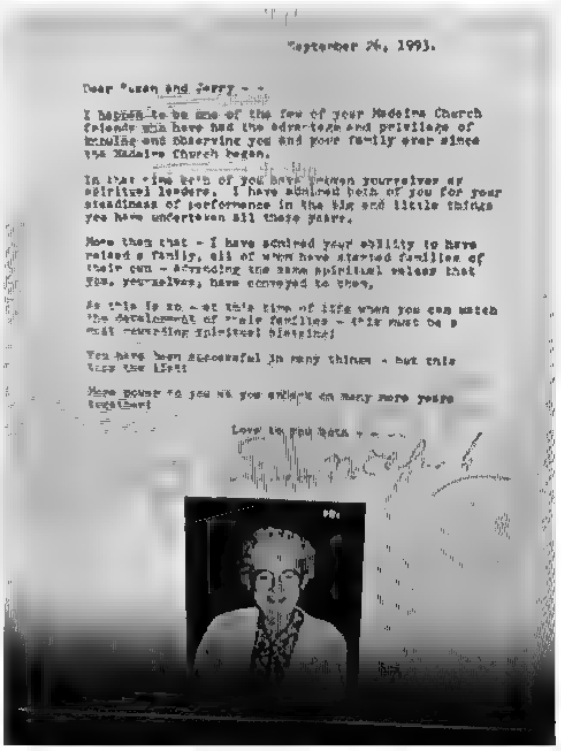
From Sylvia (nee Boettcher) Schwartz

On Nov 18, 1972 I was married to Don Schwartz, and in the ceremony, Donna Weitzel played the organ and Susan Babik sang a special song called "Tell me you are mine" written by Paul Lee He wrote the music and lyrics, he was a friend of Norma Boettcher (my mom) I believe Gloria Hewitt (my aunt) knew him as well My sister Jenny and I had gone to his house at times to hear him play his piano

Mrs Gibson (can't remember her first name) was a great artist and she painted a mural of Noah's Ark and all the animals on the small Sunday school wall in the red house church, before we built the new church She was young and had a husband and at least two children Sadly, she died in a car accident I believe she and her family lived near the Allmans

The Doyles John Doyle and his wife, and John's mother Dollie John s mother would come into church dress really nice and she must have been in her eighties. I remember her walking tall and straight with her hat, gloves, and purse. I noticed everything matched I said to myself that would be me some day I started around 19 or 20 yrs old I had a red velvet hat and a black white check hat, my purse had to match my shoes, and my hair just right I remember living on upper Euclid, the family was leaving for church I was still in the bathroom fixing my hair My sister Mollie comes in and said, "come on Miss Prissy we're going to be late " Of course, my sister was simply dressed in a blouse, skirt, and flats then she was ready to go Where I was more dressed up, hose, heel shoes, gloves, purse and my hair was to be 'just so'. If I wore a hat it had to match the outfit All because of Dollie Doyle!

The **Allmans** would come over when we lived on Camargo I don t know if they came to help in the garden or just visiting, but I know the girls, Sharon and Darla would swim in our luxury and beautiful metal pool. (*Ed this was a 12 ft diameter metal tank with a 3 ft side designed for watering farm animals like horses and cows*) I saw a picture of the two in the pool wearing swim caps to keep their hair dry I remember going to Bob's T V repair shop in Madeira on Laurel. Across the hall was a shoe repair shop, I remember the smell of glue and leather



"eptember 26, 1993.

Dear Susan and Jerry - -

I happen to be one of the few of your Madeira Church friends who have had the extra-special privilege of knowing and observing you and your family ever since the Madeira Church began.

In that time both of you have proven yourselves as spiritual leaders. I have admired both of you for your steadiness of performance in the big and little things you have undertaken all these years.

More than that - I have admired your ability to have raised a family, all of whom have started families of their own - attracting the same spiritual values that You, yourselves, have conveyed to them.

So this is so - at this time of life when you can watch the development of male families - this must be a most rewarding spiritual blessing!

You have been successful in many things - but this tops the list!

More power to you as you embark on many more years together!

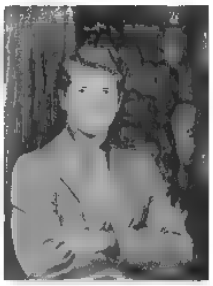
Love to you both - - -

Here is a letter Elenora McElfresh sent Jerry and Susan Babik just wanting to say how important their witnessing of faith has meant!

Nell and Earl Franklin celebrating maybe their 49th Wedding Anniversary in 1978 at their home

Some Updates on Our Family

I want to update everyone on things about children of those founding members and what I have learned about some of them!



First, I want to connect the Master Provisions insert at the end of the previous section!

It relates to Jerry and Susan Babik's son Roger! Roger graduated from Madeira High School in 1975 Here's his 'confident posture' senior picture!

Roger graduated from Milligan in 1979 with a major in business administration and economics. Milligan University is in Milligan, Tennessee offering a Christ-centered liberal arts education Roger began his career in the field of telecommunications In 1994, Babik's life and career drastically changed when a friend sought his assistance in supporting Ukrainians after the fall of communism Babik responded by founding the nonprofit '**Master Provisions**' to provide for those in need Two years later, he stepped away from a 17-year telecommunications career to follow a call to full-time 'ministry' of providing for others in need

Babik has led 49 international mission trips with Master Provisions, and the nonprofit began addressing local hunger needs in 2013 Master Provisions now serves more than 68,000 people monthly, has over 200 local partnerships, and supports 8 international ministries Check out their website! https... masterprovisions.org

David, Roger, Susan, and Linda 2010

Now here's another connection bringing founding members' kids together in a God led plan!

Six degrees of separation is the idea that all people are six or fewer social connections away from each other in this world As a result, a chain of "friend of a friend" statements can be made to connect any two people in a maximum of six steps It's a fancy way of saying it is a small world indeed!

Remember how Kent Shelley found out about Madeira Church of Christ while living in CANADA?

Remember how God brought many of these wonderful couples together though blind dates or in schools like Cincinnati Bible Seminary?

To give another example, I point to Nancy Johnson, daughter of Peggy and Clarence Perkins When I connected with her in late 2024 she was living in Madison, Indiana As we began sharing pictures and stories, she sent me the following pictures

The first picture is of Nancy (nee Perkins) with Tom and Tim Flynn who are twins and the brothers of Debbie Starcher The second picture is Nancy's daughter, Tausha, with Debbie's son Brad, whom Tausha dated in high school around 1996-7 Stay with me and all will be clear!

Debbie was living in Independence, Ky when her and Nancy reconnected The importance to me was the fact Debbie's maiden name was 'Flynn' If you go back earlier in this book, you will see a photo of 'Pete Flynn' as part of the initial leadership group for the Madeira Church of Christ, the one dated January 1959 Yes, Debbie is the daughter of THAT Flynn, Pete and Shirley Flynn! And their twin sons! Small world indeed!

Nell and Earl Franklin in their home on Rita Lane in mid-1974 with grandkids Kristy and Erik

Here is grownup Kristy (nee Franklin, Earl and Nell's granddaughter) Sorensen with husband Mel, in Tampa Florida visiting their married son (2024)

Deborah Sue (nee Hartley) Chrien and Family! (2023)

Deborah is the daughter of Charles 'Bert' and Virginia Hartley

Update on Ken Read, remember the youth group choir, etc.?

Ken claims he can't find his wedding pictures from March 21, 1981 taken at Madeira Church so, I thought some high school pictures would give you a vision of their wonderfulness!

Ellen Troutman,
Sycamore HS 1977

Ken Read, Madeira HS,
1975

In early 1983, after the birth of their first child, the Reads moved to Rockford, IL for Ken to be a full time 'Minister of Music and Drama' at Central Christian Church. After about 3 years, they moved to Lexington, KY for Ken to become 'Minister of Music' at Gardenside Christian Church. In 1988, they moved back to Cincinnati when Ken became a music and worship professor at Cincinnati Christian University (as it came to be named, formerly Cincinnati Bible Seminary).

Ken wrote songs, choral compositions, piano arrangements, and music productions. Now it has been over 50 years of him composing and arranging. Some original songs written during his Madeira years are, "Lord Teach Me to Be Like You," "The Blues." Some original choral pieces include, "Fight the Good Fight,"

He continued to write for the local church. He formed a publishing company to help be a kick-starter for student composers and a scholarship generator for those in the worship program. The name is 'CByond Music' (www.beyondmusic.org), named after the the school at that time, which was CBC (college) and CBS (seminary), the institution itself called CBC&S. Some of the student compositions that have had action are "Give Me Jesus" by Justin and Tasha Golden and "Emmanuel's Land," by Jeff Steele, as well as several others.

Some of Ken's personal projects are collections of hymn arrangements. Between his specializations in composition and his interest in worship, he often finds himself at the intersection of texts and music. One is an exploration of contemporary settings of ancient hymns and Scripture songs, called "Ancient Whispers." The purpose is to introduce modern Evangelicals to the rich texts of the early church. Another project is made of the purposeful resetting of unfamiliar hymns, whose texts are worth preserving, but whose music might be inaccessible. Ken calls these "Hymns I Taught My Mother."

It is a passion of his to write tunes and words that can reintroduce unfamiliar hymns to the church. Beyond that, there are literally hundreds of songs and compositions. Some are intended to be humorous ("Completely Out of Context Scripture Songs") and most are written for congregations. Some are solo recordings done by various artists over the years. Some are choral compositions or arrangements. Some are instrumental. All are intended for the building up of the saints.

For an up-to-date resource of the various creations from Ken, go to http://kenread.org

Susan Babik with sister Anna McKnight on her 100th birthday, November 20, 9

Susan and Jerry Babik on Jan 1, 2003, New Year's

Susan Babik and Jerry Green at Mason Christian Village where many Madeira Church of Christ members went to live after retirement.

The Renee (nee Myers) Skidmore family 2014 (L-R) Grandson Chance, daughter April, son Daron, Daron's wife Jillian and Don, (Renee's husband), Renee

Renee is the daughter of Roy and Leona Myers. Don and Renee are also, long time Florence, Ky City Council members!

Back row - Heather holding Beckett, me (Holly, daughter of Paul Tabor) Jim, and Paul
Front row - Darin, Leah, Sean holding Sabine, and Felix on the run, Summer of 2023

Nancy (nee Perkins, daughter of Clarence and Peggy) Johnson with grandson Aaron in Indiana, 2016-7

The church's former minister, Jerry Lewis, became the chaplain for the Utah Jazz professional basketball team in the late 1980s, serving them for over 30 years!

Theobalds at Reds game, 2023 spring, Back row Carl, Jessica with baby Harper, Jenny (nee Boettcher), front Steve, Stephanie, and Nikki

Standing (L-R): John, Becky, Elisha, AnaClaire, and Sylivia (nee Boettcher) Schwartz, sitting are Lillian and Mollie. Missing is son Kevin, Amy, and granddaughter Emma Christmas 2024. The winner of the ugly Christmas sweater is

Standing (L-R): Lisa (daughter-in-law), Todd, Chance, Joseph, Kathryn, Peyton, Matthew, Callie, Lexi, Davis. Sitting (L-R): Micheal me (*Mike*), Pam holding Owen, Lisa (daughter) holding Rae and Riley, Meghan holding Lyla. The whole Georgia Gang! Christmas 2024

BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER

Let us "Break Bread Together" on our knees

"Breaking bread" is a term for sharing food. In Biblical times, bread was broken apart and given to one's guests or members of their family.

It gave the opportunity for everyone to talk and share things about themselves. This encouraged everyone to have something in common. "Breaking Bread Together" allows one to learn about other cultures and meet new people. Christians knew sharing a meal would be very beneficial to all involved in the meal?

What follows are recipes copied from a Madeira Church of Christ's cookbook dated about the mid-1980s. It was put together and printed by the church's Dorcas Circle. The "Dorcas circle" refers to a Christian women's group inspired by the example of Dorcas (Aramaic name was Tabitha), a woman known for her good works and charity, who was raised from the dead by Peter (Acts 9:36-43).

CHEESE BALL — BETTY BECKETT

4 oz. Philadelphia cream cheese
1 pkg. chipped corn beef
5 - little green onions
2 tbsp. Worchestershire Sauce

Soften cream cheese. Add Worchestershire Sauce, grate or dice green onions. Shred corned beef real fine. Add 3/4 pkg. and above mixture. Shape into ball and garnish with remaining corned beef. Let stand several hours or overnight. Serve on fancy crackers.

Betty is the wonderful cook who also, collected antiques on trips with my mother, Norma Boettcher

EASY 8 LAYER DIP FOR A CROWD — DARLA VOGELPOHL

10 ½ oz. can jalapeno dip
1 cup avacado dip
1 cup sour cream
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
1 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese
1 cup chopped green onions
2 tomatoes, chopped
5 oz. sliced black olives

Spread on serving platter in the above order. Can put directly on to or put each layer a little in from edge of platter, be creative. Cover, chill, serve with taco chips, crackers or whatever you like.

Darla is Maxine Allman's daughter. Getting a new last name didn't change the wonderful talent for cooking she got from her mother!

SUGAR COATED PECANS

KAREN MASON

1 egg white
3 cups pecan halves
1 2 cup white sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
1 rounded tbsp cinnamon

Mix egg white and pecans in a bowl. In another small bowl mix sugar, salt and cinnamon Pour over egg white coated pecans and stir well Spread on a flat pan and toast 1/2 hr. in 275°F oven, stirring every 10 min Cool in pan

Karen Mason is the wife of Lee Mason, the minister

The various colored pages are due to finding recipes within different sections of the cookbook, i.e desserts, appetizers, breads, etc ! Each section had its own color!

POTATO [illegible]

MAXINE A. LAMAR

[illegible] cup mashed potatoes
[illegible] tsp salt
[illegible] eggs, well beaten
[illegible] cup sugar
[illegible] cup butter
tbsp yeast
cake yeast or granules
1½ maybe

[illegible] in the last cup of the water Pour it make soft dough [illegible] Knead [illegible] takes about [illegible] Put in [illegible] Let rise in warm place [illegible] hour [illegible] Punch [illegible] before baking [illegible] Roll out and cut [illegible] one additional roll or use a [illegible] muffin [illegible] Bake 425° for about [illegible] 12 minutes [illegible] sweet potatoes Mix as for bun before adding You can also use water if you don't cook your own potatoes

A recipe that is not shared with others will soon be forgotten but when it's shared it will be enjoyed by future generations

SNOWBALLS

The late Winnie Kistler
Submitted by Maxine Almar

1 [illegible] can crushed pineapple
1 [illegible] pkg. marshmallows
[illegible] cup nuts chopped [illegible]
1 pkg. dates [illegible] oz.
1 box vanilla wafers [illegible] size
[illegible] pt. whipping cream
[illegible]

Chop dates, marshmallows and nuts and mix Let stand overnight Put mixture between cookies, spread with whipped cream and sprinkle with coconut Let stand [illegible] hours

Maxine always could spot a great recipe!

NUT CLUSTERS

BETTY BECKETT

[illegible] oz pkg. [illegible] chips
[illegible] squares white [illegible] chocolate
[illegible] cake paraffin [illegible] fine red [illegible] candy [illegible] wax
Melt [illegible] over hot water mix well Add package of [illegible] peanuts [illegible] wax well [illegible] or [illegible] by teaspoons on wax paper

PEANUT BUTTER FUDGE

MABLE COWGILL

[illegible] cups granulated sugar
[illegible] cup whole milk
[illegible] cup marshmallow cream
[illegible] tbsp butter
[illegible] tsp vanilla

Cook until soft ball forms in water In other [illegible] tbsp butter and [illegible] tsp vanilla

Have ready, mixed together in a large bowl [illegible] can of marshmallow cream, 1 [illegible] lb peanut butter

Have this mixed rose jar also have pan ready [illegible] work fast Put hot mixture on this and beat very quickly and put into pan fast

Mable Cowgill, along with her husband, Tom, were always doing things around the church. And her fudge was downright 'sinful'!

WHITE COCONUT CANDY

MABLE COWGILL

[illegible] cups granulated sugar
[illegible] cup white karo syrup
[illegible] cup water

Cook these things together until it forms a soft ball in cup of water Have ready [illegible] egg whites beaten stiff Beat cooked mixture into egg whites slowly add [illegible] tsp vanilla [illegible] any other flavor [illegible] cup [illegible] or more of coconut Pour into prepared pan cut into squares Square cake pan wax paper [illegible] Do not have to grease

WHITE COCONUT CANDY

MABLE COWGILL

[illegible] cups granulated sugar
[illegible] cup white karo syrup
1 4 cup water

Cook these things together until it forms a soft ball in cup of water Have ready [illegible] egg whites beaten stiff Beat cooked mixture into egg whites slowly add [illegible] tsp vanilla [illegible] any other flavor [illegible] cup [illegible] or more of coconut Pour into prepared pan cut into squares Square cake pan wax paper [illegible] Do not have to grease

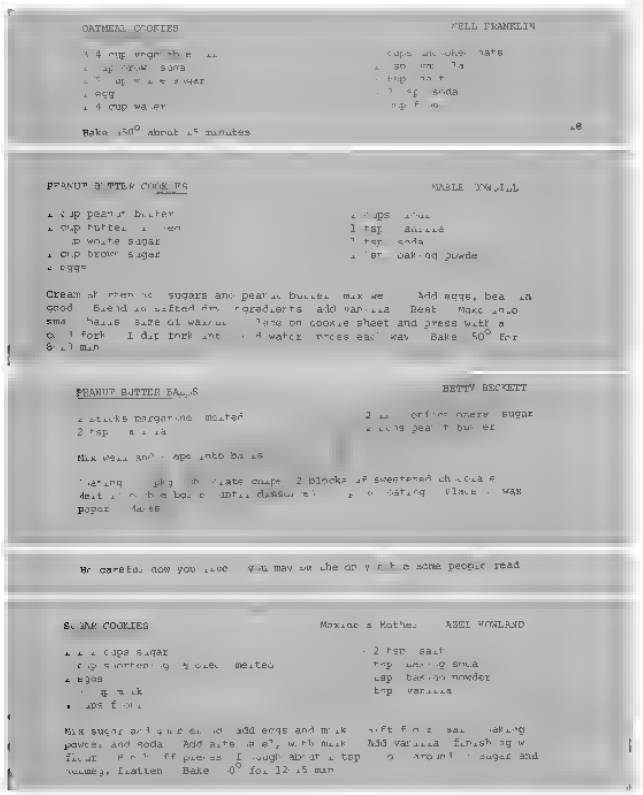
OATMEAL COOKIES

NELL FRANKLIN

[illegible] eggs
[illegible] cup white sugar
[illegible] cup white sugar
[illegible] cup butter [illegible] Crisco
1 tsp. soda
[illegible] tsp vanilla
tsp vanilla
[illegible] cups flour
3 cups quick oats uncooked
[illegible] cup [illegible] cherries chopped
[illegible] cup cocoa

Roll in [illegible] and leave over [illegible] or [illegible] Bake at 350 degrees cook as and bake [illegible] until brown [illegible]

Nell and Earl were the type of grandparents every kid (*like me*) wished to have! Always smiling, hugging, and encouraging And she could really cook! !!!



OATMEAL COOKIES — NELL FRANKLIN

¾ cup vegetable [illegible] — [illegible] cups [illegible] oats
[illegible] cup brown sugar — ½ [illegible]
[illegible] cup white sugar — 1 tsp salt
1 egg — 1 tsp soda
¼ cup water — [illegible] cup flour

Bake 350° about 15 minutes — 18

PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES — MABLE YOWELL

½ cup peanut butter — 1½ cups flour
½ cup butter [illegible] — 1 tsp [illegible]
[illegible] cup white sugar — 1 tsp soda
½ cup brown sugar — ½ tsp baking powder
2 eggs

Cream shortening and sugars and peanut butter; mix well. Add eggs, beat in good. Blend in sifted dry ingredients, add vanilla. Beat. Make into small balls. Safe oil warm. Place on cookie sheet and press with a fork. I dip fork into cold water twice each way. Bake 350° for 8-10 min.

PEANUT BUTTER BARS — BETTY BECKETT

½ sticks margarine melted — 2 cups [illegible] sugar
2 tsp vanilla — 2 cups peanut butter

Mix well and pat into bars.

Topping: pkg chocolate chips, 2 blocks of sweetened chocolate. Melt in the box of [illegible] baking. Place wax paper [illegible]

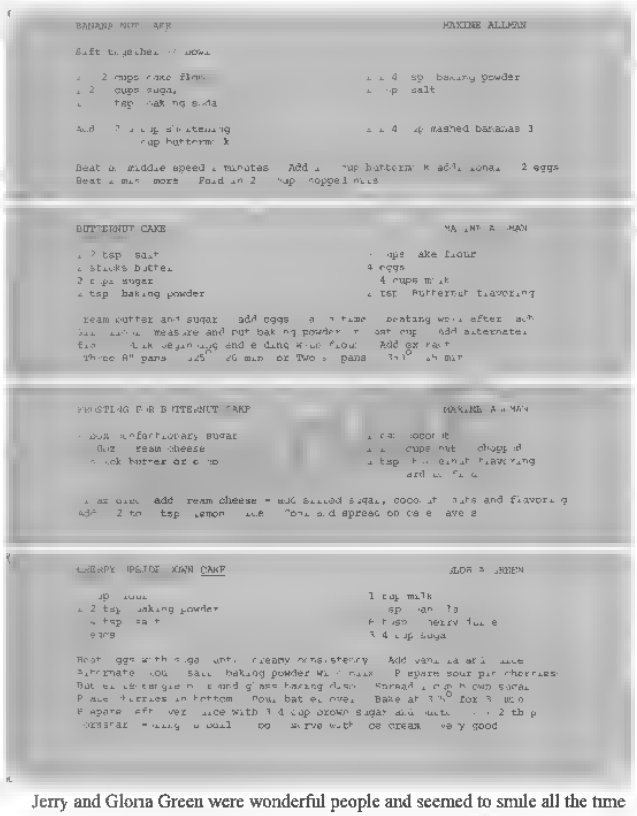
Be careful how you treat what may be the only bible some people read

SUGAR COOKIES — Maxine's Mother — ADEL ROWLAND

1½ cups sugar — 2 tsp salt
1 cup shortening, ½ oleo, melted — 1 tsp baking soda
2 eggs — 1 tsp baking powder
1 cup milk — 1 tsp vanilla
4 cups flour

Mix sugar and shortening, add eggs and milk. Sift flour, salt, baking powder and soda. Add alternately, with milk. Add vanilla. Finish adding flour. Pinch off pieces of dough about 1 tsp size and roll in sugar and nutmeg, flatten. Bake 350° for 12-15 min.

These cookies are one of my favorites! Now we can see where Maxine learned such great cooking skills! Now the next recipe is made with bananas. She had several recipes using bananas, like pudding and banana bread. When my mother, Norma Boettcher, was taken ill once, Maxine brought a variety of banana dishes, every day, for a whole week!



BANANA NUT [illegible] — MAXINE ALLMAN

Sift together [illegible]

2 cups cake flour — 1½ tsp baking powder
2 cups sugar — ½ tsp salt
1 tsp baking soda

Add [illegible] cup shortening — 1½ cups mashed bananas
cup buttermilk

Beat on medium speed 2 minutes. Add 1 cup buttermilk, add soda, 2 eggs. Beat 2 minutes more. Pour in 2 cups chopped nuts.

BUTTERNUT CAKE — MARIAN A. MANN

1 tsp salt — 3 cups cake flour
1 sticks butter — 4 eggs
2 cups sugar — 1 cups milk
1 tsp baking powder — 1 tsp butternut flavoring

Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating well after each. Sift dry measure and put baking powder in last cup. Add alternately flour, milk, vegetable oil and flavoring. Mix flour. Add extract. Grease 9" pans, 325° 25 min. or Two 8" pans 350° 30 min.

FROSTING FOR BUTTERNUT CAKE — MARIAN A. MANN

1 box confectionary sugar — 1 cup coconut
8oz cream cheese — 1½ cups nut, chopped
½ cup butter or oleo — 1 tsp butternut flavoring
and milk

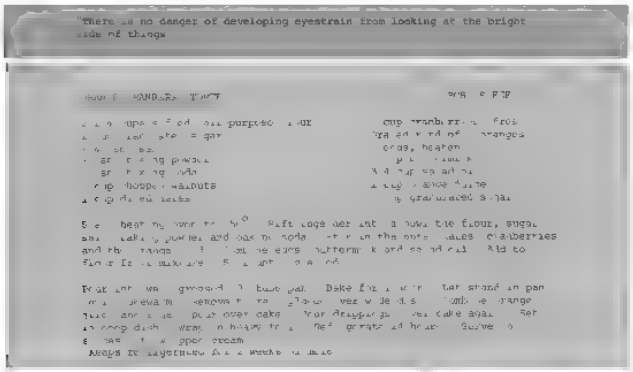
Mix sugar, add cream cheese + milk, salted sugar, cocoa, nuts and flavoring. Add 2 tsp lemon juice. Cool and spread on cake. Save 2

CHERRY PRIZE WINNING CAKE — ALDA S. ARMEN

1 cup flour — 1 cup milk
2 tsp baking powder — 1 tsp vanilla
½ tsp salt — 1 tsp cherry juice
2 eggs — 1½ cup sugar

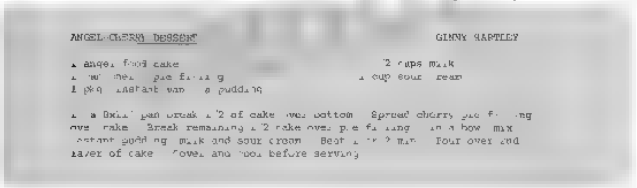
Beat eggs with sugar until creamy consistency. Add vanilla and juice. Sift together flour, salt, baking powder with mixer. Prepare sour pie cherries. Put in 13x9 greased and floured baking dish. Spread 1 cup cherry juice. Place cherries on bottom. Pour batter over. Bake at 375° for 30 min. Prepare after over juice with 1½ cup brown sugar and nuts. Add 2 tbsp cornstarch. Bring to boil. Pour and serve with ice cream. Very good.

Jerry and Gloria Green were wonderful people and seemed to smile all the time. Whenever I heard their name, I would think of the board game called Clue. You know, Mr. Green, with the lead pipe, in the library.



There is no danger of developing eyestrain from looking at the bright side of things

Rose always treated us as if we were her nieces and nephews, i.e. with kindness. She never married but could cook like she fed a large family.

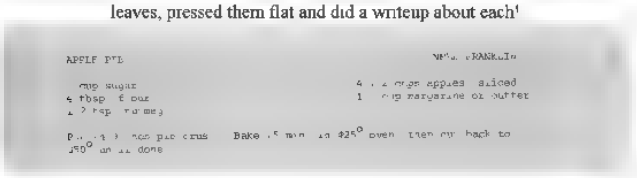


ANGEL CHERRY DESSERT — GINNY CAPTLER

1 angel food cake
1 can cherry pie filling
1 pkg instant vanilla pudding
2 cups milk
1 cup sour cream

In a 9x13" pan break 1/2 of cake over bottom. Spread cherry pie filling over cake. Break remaining 1/2 cake over pie filling. In a bowl mix instant pudding, milk and sour cream. Beat 1 to 2 min. Pour over 2nd layer of cake. Cover and cool before serving.

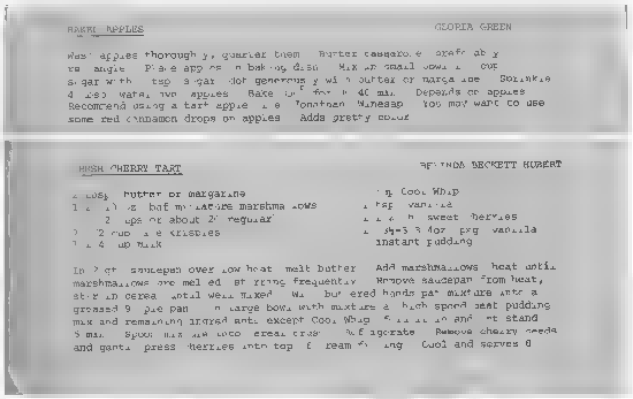
Ginny was another of those wonderful cooks who always brought something delicious to the many church meals we had. Her husband, Bert, was a biology and science teacher at Madeira High, and my sisters and I, all had Him. His claim to fame was requiring students to do a 'leaf book' for class. This is where you scoured the area for different leaves, pressed them flat and did a writeup about each!



APPLE PIE — MRS. FRANKLIN

1 cup sugar
4 tbsp flour
1/2 tsp cinnamon
4 1/2 cups apples sliced
1 cup margarine or butter

Put in 9" pie crust. Bake 15 min. at 425° oven, then cut back to 350° until done.



BAKED APPLES — GLORIA GREEN

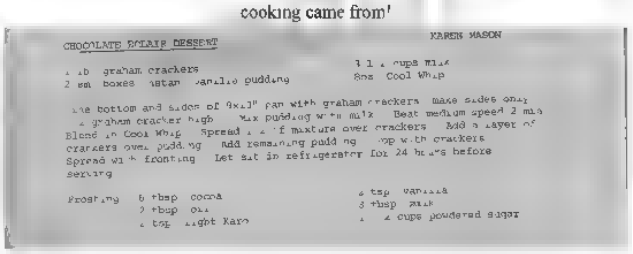
Wash apples thoroughly, quarter them. Butter casserole dish. Mix up small bowl 1 cup sugar with 1 tsp cinnamon (or generously with butter or margarine). Sprinkle 4 tbsp water over apples. Bake in 350° for 1 hr 40 min. Depends on apples. Recommend using a tart apple like Jonathan, Wineasp. You may want to use some red cinnamon drops on apples. Adds pretty color.

HUSH CHERRY TART — BETTY BECKETT HUBERT

1/2 cup butter or margarine
1 1/2 cups half marshmallow marshmallows
2 cups or about 2 regular
2 cups pie cherries
1 1/4 cup milk
1 lb Cool Whip
1 tsp vanilla
1 1/2 cups sweet cherries
1 3/4-3 3/4 oz pkg vanilla instant pudding

In 2 qt saucepan over low heat melt butter. Add marshmallows, heat until marshmallows are melted, stirring frequently. Remove saucepan from heat, stir in cereal until well mixed. Using buttered hands pat mixture into a greased 9" pie pan. In large bowl with mixture at high speed beat pudding mix and remaining ingred. until except Cool Whip. Fold in and let stand 5 min. Spoon mix into cocoa crust. Refrigerate. Remove cherry needs and gently press cherries into top. Cream with Cool Whip. Cool and serves 8.

Now Belinda was Betty Beckett's daughter, so we know full well where her talent for cooking came from!

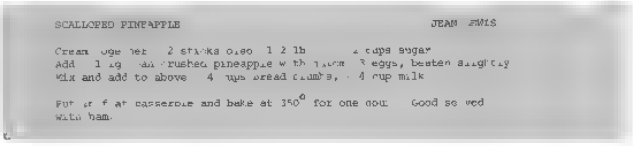


CHOCOLATE EYELASH DESSERT — KAREN MASON

1 lb graham crackers
2 sm boxes instant vanilla pudding
1 1/2 cups milk
8oz Cool Whip

Line bottom and sides of 9x13" pan with graham crackers. Make sides only. 1 graham cracker high. Mix pudding with milk. Beat medium speed 2 min. Blend in Cool Whip. Spread 1/2 of mixture over crackers. Add a layer of crackers over pudding. Add remaining pudding. Top with crackers. Spread with frosting. Let sit in refrigerator for 24 hours before serving.

Frosting: 6 tbsp cocoa, 2 tbsp oil, 1/4 tsp light Karo, 1 tsp vanilla, 3 tbsp milk, 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar



SCALLOPED PINEAPPLE — JEAN LEWIS

Cream sugar and butter, 2 sticks oleo, 1 1/2 lb, 2 cups sugar. Add 1 egg, 1 can crushed pineapple with juice, 3 eggs, beaten slightly. Mix and add to above. 4 cups bread crumbs, 1/2 cup milk.

Put in 9x13 at casserole and bake at 350° for one hour. Good served with ham.

Jean Lewis is pastor Jerry Lewis's wife. Everyone would remember "Jerry Lewis" due to the name but everyone remembers Jean's unique dish for pineapple!

RHUBARB CAKE — SUSAN BABIK

Cream together	1 & 2 cups brown sugar	& egg
	1/2 cup Crisco	& tsp vanilla
Add	2 cups flour	& 4 tsp salt
	& tsp soda	& cup sour milk(add & tsp vinegar to sweet milk
Fold	2 cups cut up rhubarb	

Spread in a greased and floured 9x13 pan. Sprinkle on the following topping: & egg white, & cup sugar, & 2 tbsp chopped nuts, 1 tsp cinnamon. Bake at 350 for 30-35 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out dry.

Jerry and Susan were the strength around the church from praying activities to singing for the Lord. He played great softball and Susan cooked for every church meal I believe!

Thank God for dirty dishes. They have a tale to tell. While others go hungry, we're eating pretty well. With home and health and happiness we shouldn't want to fuss. For by this stack of evidence, God's very good to us.

TEXAS PRUNE PIE — ETHEL MEDERT

& eggs	1 tbsp butter
1 cup sugar	Pinch of salt
1 cups milk	& tsp vanilla
& tbsp cornstarch & flour	1 cup whipping cream
	& sq. bitter chocolate

Beat egg yolks slightly and add milk. Mix flour, cornstarch and & cup sugar; add to first mixture with butter, cook in double boiler until thick. Beat egg whites with cup sugar until stiff, add vanilla to first mix, cool and pour on egg whites, folding in all the while. Fill 10" baked pie shell. Cover with whipped cream and grated bitter chocolate over top.

STEED 'N' SKILLET — ANN MCKNIGHT

& lb ground beef	4 cups Bisquick
& med onion, chopped	& tsp to add seasoning
can tomato soup	& tsp pepper
4 cups water	& 1/2 cup water approx

Brown meat and onion. Add tomato soup and 4 cups water. Simmer while preparing dumplings. Mix remaining ingredients. Add enough water to make soft dough. Drop by spoonfuls into meat mixture. Cook covered & min. or until dumplings are done.

Ann McKnight is Susan Babik's sister. Both could cook wonderful meals as well as praising the Lord with their musical talents.

PORK PIE — A Christmas Eve tradition from the days of Madeira Kens — KAREN MASON

Pastry

2 cups all purpose flour	& egg, beaten
& cup lard	4/5 cup sour cream
1 & 1/2 tsp salt	

Sift together flour & salt. Cut in lard till mixture resemb as small peas. Add egg and sour cream, mix just to flour mixture is moistened. Wrap in wax paper and squeeze tight together. Chill hr. Roll out & slightly floured surface as directed in recipe for crust.

Filling

& lb ground pork	1 & 1/2 cup chopped onion
4 Baked potatoes	1 clove garlic, minced
& 1 2 lbs lean pork cut in & pieces	& tbsp flour
	& tsp salt
& tsp pepper	& beef bouillon cube
& tsp allspice	1 & 1/2 cup chopped parsley
& cup water	1 cup sour cream

Sauté onion & garlic in bacon drippings. Add flour & salt. Cook until tender. Stir & add water, bouillon cube & parsley. Cover and cook 30 min. over low heat or until pork is tender. Add potatoes, cut into 1" cubes & place in pie plate with pastry. Pour top crust of pastry over large than pie plate. Make several slits in pastry for steam to escape. Trim pastry around pie plate with both mixture and set top crust on. Crimp edge of top crust under bottom crust to form edge. Brush top crust with cream. Bake in 400 oven for 25 min. Serve hot. If you like serve with sour cream.

[illegible] CASSEROLE

MAXINE ALLMAN

2 lb. Sausage, fried & drained
1 cup [illegible]
1 can cream of chicken soup
1 can cream of mushroom soup
1 can cream of [illegible] soup
1 can [illegible] water
[illegible]

Mix and bake 1 [illegible] hours at 325° [illegible] covered. Add water if needed to [illegible] if desired. Serves [illegible]

BAKED CHICKEN

JENNY LAPPITY

4 chicken breasts, boned
1 [illegible] Italian sweet sour sauce
1 [illegible] Barbecue sauce
1 cup onion rings
1 can Bing cherries, drained
1 can peach slices, drained

Brown chicken quite browned, baste with sauce. Bake 350° for 1 hour. Serve with rice. Serves 4

BEEF BARBECUE

WELL FRANKLIN

2 tsp. dry mustard
1 bottle [illegible]
2 tsp. sugar
[illegible] tsp. salt
1 [illegible] hot fish or sauce
2 tsp. vinegar
2 cup onion
1 cup celery
[illegible] tsp. pepper
[illegible] teaspoon [illegible] like

Combine [illegible] and water and cook about 1 hour, then add the ingredients. Add [illegible] pound hamburger or left over [illegible] and [illegible]

[illegible] SOUP

TINY KITCHEN

Cook [illegible] Onion Soup
Prepare as [illegible] on the [illegible] use [illegible] Beans
Add 2 [illegible] cups of [illegible] on the [illegible] use [illegible] Beans
Pepper to taste [illegible] salt
Add to [illegible] Cook cheese [illegible]
Simmer on the stove for [illegible] hours
Keep serving, [illegible] Add [illegible] and sour over Push [illegible] Add cheese on Push before [illegible] Serve hot

[illegible] SENATE BEAN SOUP

MAXINE ALLMAN

2 cups white beans, soaked overnight
Ham bone with meat on it
3 quarts water
1 cup cooked mashed potatoes
2 onions, chopped fine
1 small bunch celery, stalks and tops chopped
1 clove garlic, minced

Put soaked beans, ham bone and water in a soup kettle. Simmer slowly for 2 hours. Add mashed potatoes when onions are half cooked and cook well. Add onions, celery, garlic and parsley and simmer another hour. Remove ham bone, chop off any meat and return meat to soup.

WATERGATE SALAD

MAXINE ALLMAN

1 pkg. Pistachio instant pudding
1 can crushed pineapple and juice
1 9 oz. [illegible] topping
1 cup miniature marshmallows
1 2 cup chopped pecans

Mix all ingredients together, chill before serving.

SALAD DRESSING

BETTY BECKETT

1 medium onion
1 cup oil
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. Worcestershire Sauce
1 2 cup sugar
1 tsp. salt
4 cup wine vinegar

Mix well in blender or food processor and let set overnight. Especially good over spinach salad with hard boiled eggs and bacon bits.

PRIZE CHRISTMAS SALAD

BETTY BECKETT

Dissolve 1 package cherry Jello in 1 cup hot water, 1 2 cup cold water, then until partially thickened. Add 1 small orange cut into chunks, 1 2 cup pineapple chunks or crushed pineapple, 1 cup cranberry relish sauce and 1 4 cup chopped nuts. Chill until firm.

4 CUP SALAD

BETTY BECKETT

1 cup Mandarin oranges, drained
1 cup crushed pineapple, drained
1 cup miniature marshmallows
1 cup chopped nuts
1/2 cup coconut
1 pkg. Cool Whip

Mix above ingredients and chill overnight. If you want to add color, add one package of dry Jello to Cool Whip before adding to above mixture.

SEVEN LAYER JELLO — BRENDA BRACKETT AUBURN

1 package 3 oz lime Jello
1 package 3 oz orange Jello
1 package 3 oz lemon Jello
1 package 3 oz strawberry Jello

Dissolve each of above in 1 cup boiling water and 1 cup cold water

White Filling — 2 cups milk, bring to boil and add one cup sugar, 1 stick oleo, all dissolved

Dissolve 2 packages Knox Gelatin in 1 cup cold water. Add in with electric mixer: 2 cups 1 pint sour cream, 1 tsp vanilla

Cool before pouring over Jello layers. When each layer is sticky to touch, it is ready for next layer.

1st = Lime Jello
2nd = 1/4 W. to filling
3rd = Orange Jello
4th = 1/4 cup White filling
5th = Lemon Jello
6th = 1/4 cup White filling
7th = Strawberry Jello

Use 9x13 Pyrex dish

ORANGE JELLO SALAD — GINNY HARTLEY

1 pkg orange Jello, large
1 tub Cool Whip, large
1 can mandarin oranges, drained, large
2 lbs cottage cheese
1 can pineapple tidbits, drained, large

Mix dry Jello and Cool Whip, add drained pineapple, oranges and cottage cheese. Chill and serve.

APRICOT JELLO — BETTY BECKETT

1 small container of Cool Whip
1 small container of small curd cottage cheese
1 3oz pkg apricot Jello
1 small can crushed pineapple, drained
nuts, optional

Take a little of the milk off the cottage cheese. Sprinkle dry Jello over cottage cheese. Blend in Cool Whip and drained pineapple. Sprinkle with nuts. Serves 6

CARROT SALAD — BETTY BECKETT

2 lbs carrots
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup oil
1 can tomato soup
3/4 cup vinegar
1 tsp salt
1 2 tsp pepper
1 tsp dry mustard
1 1g onion, minced
1 lg green pepper, sliced

Cook carrots until tender and drain. Beat next seven ingredients until dissolved. Pour marinated liquid over carrots, onions and peppers. Let stand over night. Keeps well.

Happiness is like potato salad — when you share it with others, it's a picnic

[illegible] BEANS — PEARL BRAND — [illegible] BARB BABLY

4 [illegible] green onions, drained
1 [illegible] Swiss cheese, grated
2 tbsp [illegible] butter
2 tbsp flour
1/2 tsp [illegible] onion
1 tsp salt
1/4 tsp pepper
1 tsp sugar
1 cup sour cream

Place beans in greased casserole, sprinkle with [illegible]. Melt butter in saucepan, add flour. Add onion, salt, pepper, sugar and sour cream. Cook slowly for a few minutes, stirring constantly. Pour over beans and [illegible]. Sprinkle top with cup corn flakes mixed with 2 tbsp melted butter. Bake at 350 for 20 minutes.

CABBAGE CASSEROLE — BETTY BRACKETT

1 [illegible] cabbage, 1/2 cracker crumbs, 1 beer, 1/2 buttered casserole. Add bread crumbs, salt, pepper and enough milk to make moist. Bake for approximately 40 minutes at 350°.

FRESH PEACH [illegible] — WAYNE ALLMAN

Sauce: Do [illegible] onions and 1 pt cream. Then dip a flour and put in cook [illegible] to 5 min at 350°

Be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for thereby some have unawares entertained angels.

Hebrews [illegible]

POTATO PANCAKES — MAXINE ALLMAN

1) Grate 10 raw potatoes and 3 medium onions into spagetti strainer
2 Remove liquid Put dough into mixing container.
3 Stir in 4 slightly beaten eggs
4) Add 1 2 cup flour, 2 tsp salt and blend together.
Drop by large spoonfuls onto greased skillet, fry until brown

ZUCCHINI CASSEROLE — JINNY KAYTLEY

1/2 tsp salt
1 1/2 cup onions, chopped brown in 1 tbsp. butter
3/4 cup carrots, grated
1/2 cup sour cream
1 can cream of chicken soup

Slice 2 medium size zucchini and cook partially Drain well Mix all ingredients and pour in casserole Optional: Brown 1 cup croutons in butter and top casserole Bake 350° for 30-40 minutes

EXCELLENT PARTY PUNCH — GLORIA GREEN

2 cans pineapple juice
1 can apricot juice

Add prior to serving 3/4 bottle gingerale. Make early to have flavors to season

FRIENDSHIP TEA — BETTY BECKETT

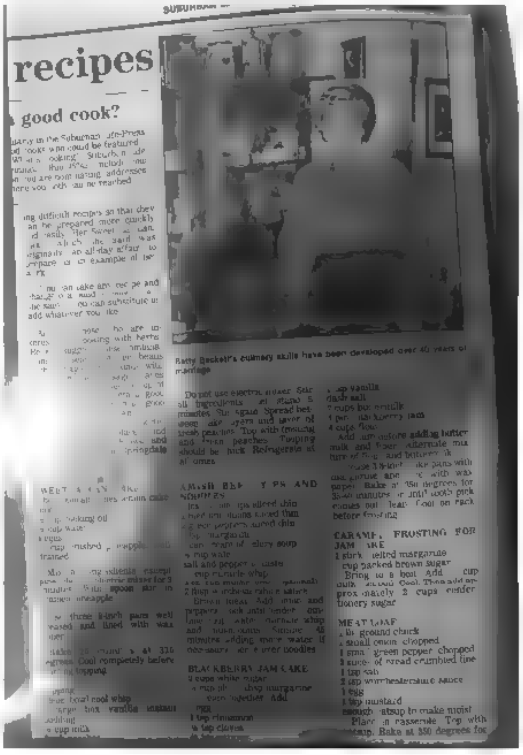
1 lb 2oz jar of orange tang
1 cup instant tea
1 1/2 cup sugar can be omitted)
1 tsp powdered cinnamon
1 tsp. cloves
3oz pkg Wylers' Lemonade Mix (unsweetened)

Mix all together and place in jar and store in refrigerator May be used 1 tsp. per cup hot water

PLAYDOUGH — KAREN MASON

2 cups flour
1 cup salt
4 tsp cream of tartar
2 tbsp oil
2 cups water
desired colorant
scent

Cook in saucepan stirring constantly, until it forms a ball Take off heat and knead until smooth Store covered



recipes

good cook?

Betty Beckett's culinary skills have been developed over 40 years of marriage

Here's an article appearing in Cincinnati's Suburban Life (abt 1990) about Betty's cooking skills!

RECIPE FOR A HAPPY FAMILY

1 loving husband
1 gentle wife
children (optional, but if included must be kept in a
firm atmosphere to prevent spoilage,
1 package of trust for each of the above
3 heaping cups of love
2 level cups of patience
1 1/2 cups each of humility and forgiveness
generous dashes of work and play

Prepare any size home container by lining it with one Bible for each part of the first three ingredients. Place all ingredients before the Lord for supervision; then combine in a mixing bowl in the order listed. (The children may need occasional light whipping to avoid a lumpy mixture.)

Pour well mixed batter into the home container and bake in a regulated oven of adversity and happiness. Insert sword of truth in center to test for quality. When sword comes out clean of bad feelings, thoughts and actions, the family is ready for the sweet topping of the Lord's approval.

HOW TO COOK A HUSBAND

A good many husbands are spoiled by mismanagement in cooking and are not so tender and good. Some women keep them constantly in hot water. Others let them freeze by their carelessness and indifference. Some keep them in a stew with irritating ways and words. Some wives keep them pickled while others waste them shamefully. It cannot be supposed that any husband will be tender and good when so managed, but they are really delicious when prepared properly.

In selecting a husband, you should not be guided by the silvery appearance as in buying a mackerel, nor by the golden tint as if you wanted a salmon. Do not go to the market for him as the best ones are always brought to the door. Be sure to select him yourself as tastes differ. It is far better to have none unless you learn patiently how to cook him.

Of course, a preserving kettle of finest porcelain is best, but if you have nothing better than an earthenware pipkin, it will do with care. Like crabs and lobsters, husbands are cooked alive. They sometimes fly out of the kettle and so become burned and crusty at the edges, so it is wise to secure him in the kettle with a strong silken cord called Comfort, as the one called Duty is apt to be weak. Make a clear slow flame of Love, warmth and cheerfulness. Set him as near this as seems to agree with him.

If he sputters, do not be anxious for some husbands do this until they are quite done. Add a little sugar in the form of what confectioners call kisses, but use no pepper. Season to taste with spices, good humor and gaiety preferred, but seasoning must always be used with great discretion and caution. Avoid sharpness in tasting him for tenderness. Stir him gently lest he be too flat and close to the kettle and so become useless. You can not fail to know when he is done. If so treated, you will find him delicious and digestible, agreeing with you perfectly; and he will keep as long as you choose unless you become careless and allow the home fires to grow cold. This prepared, he will serve a lifetime of Happiness.

Taken from Ann Mc Clure's cookbook
published in the 1800 s

Breaking bread and sharing it with each other during meals was an important part of the early church. **Acts 2:42 and 2:46**, described the early Christians' practice of sharing meals, as a way to remember Jesus and strengthen their community.

Therefore, "**Breaking bread together" means becoming one body in Christ, an unbreakable family bond, including with God.**

NEW BEGINNINGS

I (*Mike Boettcher*) left out of Ohio in 1972 headed for Greenville, South Carolina to work for the company just recently purchased by my Ohio employer, Emery Industries. The new company was Trylon Chemicals and I came with my wife and two-year-old daughter, Lisa. I wasn't much in remembering my religious roots from Madeira and focused on my education and work. Meanwhile, home life was non-existing and my wife was continuously lonely. Not a good situation for either of us. My work became my god. We tried to keep up the happy home life by adding a son to the group in 1973. Eventually, an MBA brought a job in Charleston, SC with Westvaco, where traveling became part of the responsibility. Again, work was my god, it was business, not family. Eventually, my hard work brought an opportunity at Westvaco's new plant in Winder, Georgia in 1978. I continued to dedicate my life to work and she found someone else to fill the loneliness.

I just obtained a job as plant manager with Unocal in Tucker, Georgia (1986). It was a solvent distribution warehouse operation. I knew nothing about warehousing but the employees taught me the operation and I listened, making business decisions based on building a personal relationship with them! They were now my family and helped me through the divorce. I often slept in my office or the driver's breakroom, taking showers there in the locker room. In turn, I treated them fairly and equally which I felt they appreciated. We even had our Christmas dinner at the Longhorns across the street using our coke machine funds!

I would get the kids as often as she would let me. They didn't like my low rent apartment with roaches and moldy food in the refrigerator. Still, they always came to visit and it made me very happy. When my divorce was final on December 7, 1987 (which for me lives as a day of infamy) everyone wanted to fix me up with someone they knew. I tried newspaper ads and singles nights. Nothing seemed personal or real.

Then a vendor who sold me DOT rated five-gallon cans, Mary West, wanted to take me to lunch at Olive Garden. She wanted me to meet a friend of hers from a place she worked at earlier, Simmons Mattress Company. The blind date was April 7th, a Thursday and her name was Pamela Eddins. The year was 1988.

Somehow, God gave me the message, she was the one. She attended church regularly and she brought me back into a relationship with Christ I had long abandon

Eventually, we married on June 17, 1989. This may seem too personal to put in this book but I feel it is important. We began attending Hamilton Mill Christian Church and got involved in a 'small group' program. I felt like I became a member of family.

Everyone knew everything about everyone in the group. It was personal. Everyone told their stories about how they came to Christ. I was closer to these folks than most of my relatives. God was right saying Pam was the one. She had led me back into the relationship I had been missing for so many years. I have now come full circle back into God's love.

I included this section for two reasons. First, to brag on my small group family and the love they have shared. Secondly, to personally tell everyone who reads this book, in a way, you can go home again where you are loved because it's personal and real! Here's my family!

Here the group is enjoying a gathering at Jim Cherry's home to eat together, of course! (L-R) Thomas Hogan, Dave Johnson, Ginny Hendrix, and Annette Dantzler. Next picture is Peggy Burns, Diane Miller and Shirley Hogan (Thomas' wife). You will notice Jim Cherry is coming out the door with a needed chair for the deck.

Here's Jim's wife Judith.

After church, the group often goes out to eat before returning to church for our small group Bible study. (L-R) Danny Hanshew, Sue Hanshew, Pam Boettcher, Shirley Hogan, Jimmie Plunk and Thomas Hogan. You can see we were at Famous Joe's eatery. The empty chairs are for those of the group who have yet to arrive.

Now these are special people to the group, Barbara and Ralph Jones. Due to their health issues, they attend the small group meeting via Facetime on an iPhone or by zoom.

And yes, we know as much about them as if they were sitting in the room with us!

Here we are eating after church again before small group. This a pizza place with some additional dishes like wedding soup and lasagna. (L-R) Ray (*Mike*) Boettcher, Danny Hanshew, his son Bryan Hanshew, Cris and Katherine Hayes, granddaughter Annabelle Hanshew, Sue Hanshew, and Pam Boettcher.

In the next photo we are at Longhorn's Steakhouse:

Here we are at both a joyous and sad celebration event. Jimmie is moving to Savannah, Georgia with her husband Richard to be close to their son. This was joy for them to spend their remaining years with family close. Yet, for the small group family, we are sad to see them move away. (L-R) Shirley Hogan, Jimmie Plunk, Peggy Burns, Annette Dantzler, Sue Hanshew, Pam Boettcher, Danny Hanshew and Ray (*Mike*) Boettcher.

By knowing each other so well, you know what talents they each have. Thomas Hogan took up the violin at 73 and could play 'Amazing Grace' beautifully. He said the one problem with his violin is that it would only play gospel music! His wife, Shirley, has a wonderful talent with the computer and its many apps. Below is a heartfelt picture she crafted from other photos of Sue Hanshew and Pam Boettcher. She did a slideshow presentation with photos of when my dad and I where on a Liberty ship cruise out of Baltimore. She even added early 1940s music to it. My dad loved it!

I could go on and on about my church family but I will close with this last letter from Shirley.

She wrote it about when her husband Thomas was having some health issues and was in a rehab facility for physical therapy. I'll let her 'a simple prayer' close out this section! Lisa is my (Boettcher) daughter who is a registered nurse working at another facility nearby.

A Simple Prayer

Yesterday, I had to do one of the hardest thing I have ever had to do. I left my husband of sixty-seven years 'alone' in a rehab facility, after twenty-one days of being in a hospital bed surrounded by people he loved and nurses to care for him. The rehab center didn't allow family to stay at night.

His voice was shaky, he couldn't turn over by himself, and his hands could not grasp the sheets or press the call button. But we had hope that rehab would help him regain his strength.

When I got home around six, I fed Soxs his Sheba, gave Hippy her dog treats, and plopped in my recliner for a nap which lasted till after midnight. When I woke up, I read a Max Lucado devotional about Jesus' first miracle, turning the water into wine at a wedding.

This is the condensed story as told in John 2:1-11. Jesus and his mother were at a wedding. The wine supply ran out. Mary saw the problem and went to Jesus, "they have no more wine." (No whining, no action plan, no blaming, no self guilt - she simply gave the problem to Jesus. And then she believed he could - and would - fix it.) She told the servants to 'do whatever he tells you'

And taking that message to heart, I prayed, "Dear God, Thomas needs your help."

First thing when I woke up this morning I called the Rehab facility. As soon as I told the receptionist who I was, she replied, "Oh, yes, your friend Lisa came by during the night to check on him."

I can not describe the warm feeling that gave me. I told God the problem. He sent Lisa for comfort. God answers prayers. (It was only later that I learned what a true help she had been to him that night and it still gives me a warm, grateful feeling.)

Shirley Hogan
2/18/2025

IT IS FINISHED

Theatre performances and films often conclude with a statement such as 'The End' or 'Le Fini' if it was a French film. Often, the final scene is what made the performance or movie memorable. It brings everything together, so the viewer is able to understand the message. I hope I have done this with one more final statement.

It is written in the last part of **John 19:30, "He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit."** His mission was to provide us a way back home by the forgiveness of our sins. To enter cleansed and white as snow! But mine and your mission is not finished! As believers, we are commanded to tell this story to others. It's a personal mission for us, as it was for all those mentioned throughout this book, the Madeira Church of Christ's community of believers!

Matthew 28:18-20 New American Standard Bible 1995

18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

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